LAST GASP PRESENTS THE SEQUEL TO "RECUERDEN EL ALAMO"

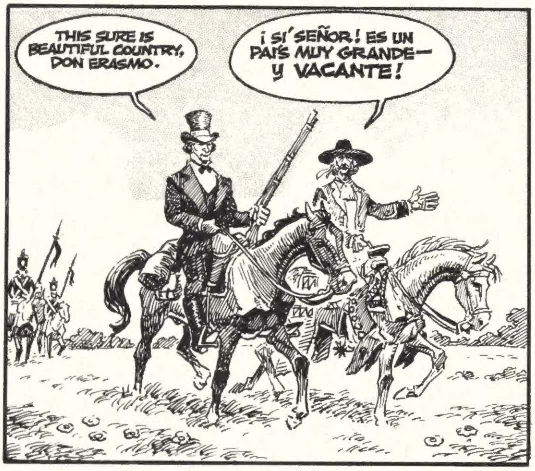
Tejano Exile

$1.50

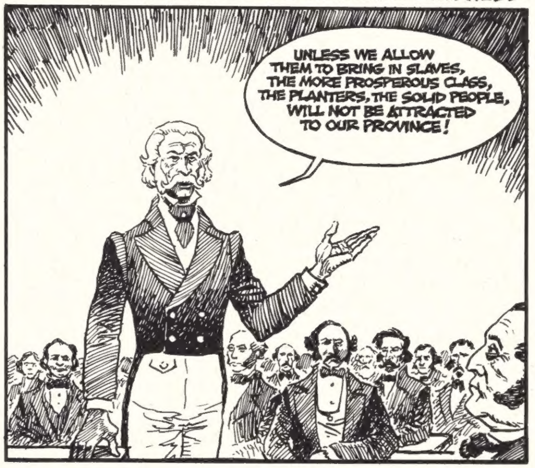
by Jaxon

THE TRUE STORY OF JUAN N. SEGUIN AND THE TEXAS-MEXICANS AFTER SAN JACINTO

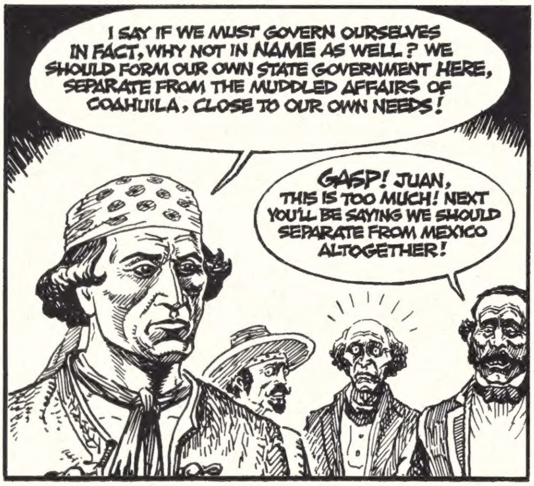
WHEN THE ANGLOS FIRST CAME TO SETTLE IN SPANISH TEXAS, ERASMO SEGUIN MET AND BEFRIENDED THEM.



IN THE FOLLOWING YEARS ERASMO WAS A FAITHFUL SUPPORTER OF THE ANGLO COLONISTS AND WORKED FOR THEIR INTERESTS IN THE NATIONAL CONGRESS.



HIS SON JUAN WAS ONE OF THE EARLIEST ADVOCATES OF INDEPENDENCE AMONG THE MEXICANS OF TEXAS.



BUT FOR HIS BEING SENT OUT AS A COURIER, HE WOULD LIKELY HAVE PERISHED WITH THE ALAMO MARTYRS.

HIS COMPANY OF TEJANO VOLUNTEERS FOUGHT VALIANTLY AT THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO, THEIR CRY ECHOING THAT OF THEIR ANGLO COMRADES, AS TEXAS WON ITS FREEDOM FROM MEXICO.

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Tejano EXILE

THE TRUE STORY OF JUAN N. SEGUIN AND THE TEXAS-MEXICANS AFTER SAN JACINTO.

WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED
by
JAXON

LAST GASP

JUAN SEGUIN: PATRIOT OR TRAITOR?

THIS MIGHT LOOK LIKE A "COMIC" BOOK, BUT IT IS REALLY A TRAGIC BOOK. IT DEALS WITH THE STORY OF ONE OF THE MOST TRAGIC FIGURES OF THE TEXAS REVOLUTION, JUAN N. SEGUIN.

IN THE FIRST BOOK, "RECUERDEN EL ALAMO", WE HAVE FOLLOWED THE HONORS WITH WHICH HE AND HIS FELLOW TEJANOS JUSTLY COVERED THEMSELVES DURING THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE. BUT THE STORY DOES NOT END THERE, AND THEIR HARD-WON LAURELS HAVE NOT COME DOWN TO US WITHOUT TARNISH.

EVENTS WHICH TOOK PLACE IN TEXAS AFTER THE REVOLUTION HAVE MADE — AND CONTINUE TO MAKE — JUAN SEGUIN ONE OF THE MOST CONTROVERSIAL CHARACTERS IN TEXAS HISTORY. SO CONTROVERSIAL THAT THE PAGE FROM THE ORIGINAL MINUTES OF THE TOWN OF SEGUIN — NAMING IT IN HIS HONOR — IS RIPPED FROM THE BOOK, BEARING MUTE TESTIMONY TO THE LABEL "*TRAITOR*" THAT JUAN SEGUIN HAS BORNE FOR OVER A CENTURY.

IN BRANDING THIS IMPORTANT TEJANO A TRAITOR, IT WAS ALL TOO EASY FOR OLD-TIME "TEXIANS" TO SLIGHT THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF OTHER, LESSER KNOWN NATIVE TEXAS-MEXICANS, WITH THE UNHAPPY RESULT THAT THE LOYALTY OF *ALL* TEJANOS CAME INTO QUESTION *AFTER* THE BATTLES WERE FOUGHT AND INDEPENDENCE ACHIEVED. PERHAPS NO INDIVIDUAL CASE WAS SO PIVOTAL IN THE TURNING OF POST-REVOLUTION, ANGLO-TEJANO RELATIONS AS THAT OF JUAN SEGUIN. HIS RUIN AND TRAGIC FLIGHT SIGNALED EVIL TIMES FOR TEXAS AND WAS A GREAT LOSS FOR HIS PEOPLE, WHOSE RIGHTS HE HAD SO ABLY CHAMPIONED.

FURTHERMORE, HIS WAS A PATTERN THAT WAS SOON TO REPEAT ITSELF THROUGHOUT THE OLD SPANISH SOUTHWEST, AS OTHER FORMER MEXICAN CITIZENS FACED THE ANGLO "CONQUERORS" AND FOUND THEMSELVES, LIKE SEGUIN, IN AN IDENTITY CRISIS — AMERICAN, BUT STILL MEXICAN! THE IMPLICATIONS OF THIS NOW DISTANT CRISIS, TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY HAVE NOT BEEN RESOLVED, ECHO ACROSS TIME AND STILL LINGER WITH US TODAY FROM TEXAS TO CALIFORNIA. TO UNDERSTAND CONTEMPORARY EVENTS IN THE MEXICAN-AMERICAN SPHERE, ONE MUST HAVE A KNOWLEDGE OF MEN LIKE JUAN SEGUIN, HIS PROBLEMS, AND HIS FATE IN AN ANGLO-DOMINATED SOCIETY.

BY MID-19TH CENTURY, WHAT SHOULD HAVE BEEN A PLACE OF HONOR FOR PATRIOTIC FIGURES LIKE SEGUIN HAD BECOME A "BACK SEAT". THEIR DESCENDANTS WERE ALL TOO OFTEN REGARDED AS MERELY PART OF THE "CONQUERED RACE", RATHER THAN AS COMPATRIOTS OF THE CONQUERORS. INSTEAD OF BEING RECOGNIZED AS LEGITIMATE HEIRS TO A PROUD TRADITION OF FREEDOM-LOVING MEN, THE TEJANOS HAD BECOME — IN THE WORDS OF SEGUIN — "FOREIGNERS IN THEIR NATIVE LAND".

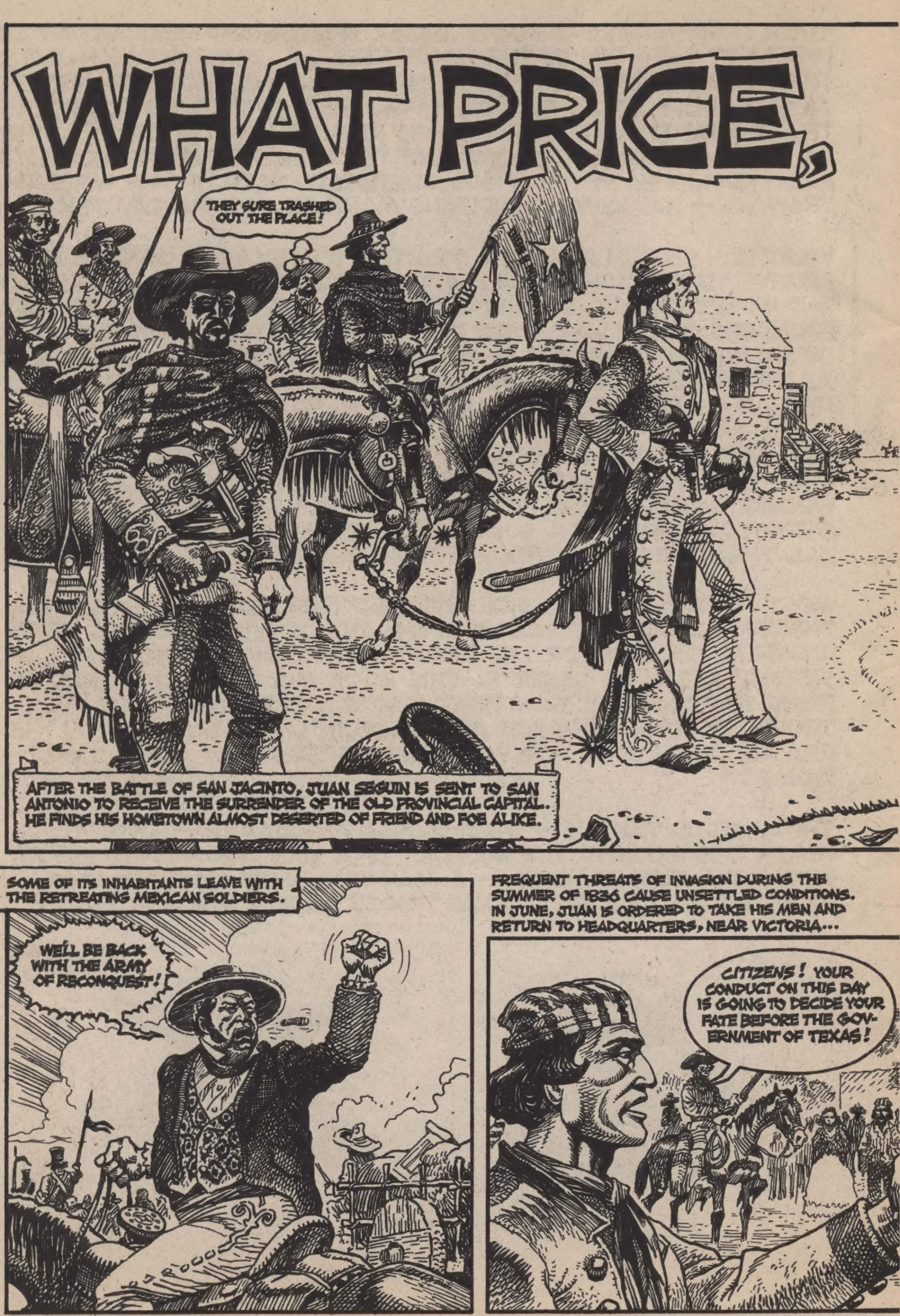
THEIR LAND HAD BEEN GRANTED UNDER SPANISH AND MEXICAN LAW AND UPHELD BY THE LAWS OF THE TEXAS REPUBLIC, BUT THEIR RICH, EXTENSIVE HOLDINGS SOON ATTRACTED THE CUPIDITY OF MORE THAN ONE ANGLO-AMERICAN ADVENTURER WHO POURED INTO TEXAS AFTER THE REVOLUTION. THE BITTERNESS RESULTING FROM THE TREATMENT OF SEGUIN AND OTHER PROMINENT TEJANOS DURING THIS FORMATIVE ERA — NOURISHED BY THE ANGLO JUSTIFICATION THAT THEY WERE ALL TRAITORS — HAS LEFT AN ENDURING MARK ON MODERN DAY TEXAS.

WAS JUAN SEGUIN REALLY A TRAITOR TO TEXAS? CAN WE READILY BELIEVE THAT A MAN WHO RISKED ALL FOR THE CAUSE OF FREEDOM AND INDEPENDENCE, WHO WAS TRUSTED AND ADMIRED BY THE BOLD FOUNDERS OF THE LONE STAR REPUBLIC, WHO WALKED IN THE HALLS OF ITS INFANT CONGRESS — WOULD WITHOUT VERY *GOOD REASON* ABANDON TEXAS AND EMBRACE THE SAME DESPOTIC MEXICO THAT HE HAD SO REPEATEDLY RAISED HIS HAND AGAINST?

WAS SEGUIN ONLY A PATHETIC VICTIM OF CIRCUMSTANCES, A MAN WHO MERELY HAPPENED TO BE IN THE WRONG PLACE AT THE WRONG TIME? OR WAS HE, AS THE SYMBOL OF HIS PEOPLE, DESTROYED AS PART OF A CONSPIRACY TO DISCREDIT AND DISAVOW ALL THE MEXICANS IN TEXAS? WHO BETRAYED WHOM??

MOST HISTORIANS HAVE SIDE-STEPPED THIS ANNOYING QUESTION, THEREBY LEAVING THE WOUND OPEN, AND DENYING SEGUIN'S HEIRS EITHER VINDICATION OR THE RECOGNITION THAT HIS RECORD OF SERVICE SEEMS TO DESERVE. THIS BOOK MODESTLY ATTEMPTS TO PIECE TOGETHER THE SCATTERED FACTS AND RECONSTRUCT THE TROUBLED TIMES IN WHICH JUAN SEGUIN LIVED, SO THAT YOU THE READER CAN JUDGE FOR YOURSELF THE "BENEDICT ARNOLD OF TEXAS".

THOUGHTFUL TEXANS — INDEED, *ALL* AMERICANS — OWE AT LEAST THIS MUCH TO THE MEMORY OF A MAN BANISHED TO INFAMY WITHOUT A FAIR HEARING — A MAN WHO IN HIS TIME DID MUCH TO ESTABLISH THE FREE TEXAS WHOSE BOUNTY WE NOW ENJOY.


WHAT PRICE,
THEY SURE TRASHED OUT THE PLACE!
AFTER THE BATTLE OF SAN JACINTO, JUAN SEGUIN IS SENT TO SAN ANTONIO TO RECEIVE THE SURRENDER OF THE OLD PROVINCIAL CAPITAL. HE FINDS HIS HOMETOWN ALMOST DESERTED OF FRIEND AND FOE ALIKE.
SOME OF ITS INHABITANTS LEAVE WITH THE RETREATING MEXICAN SOLDIERS.
WE'LL BE BACK WITH THE ARMY OF RECONQUEST!
FREQUENT THREATS OF INVASION DURING THE SUMMER OF 1836 CAUSE UNSETTLED CONDITIONS. IN JUNE, JUAN IS ORDERED TO TAKE HIS MEN AND RETURN TO HEADQUARTERS, NEAR VICTORIA...
CITIZENS! YOUR CONDUCT ON THIS DAY IS GOING TO DECIDE YOUR FATE BEFORE THE GOVERNMENT OF TEXAS!

FREEDOM ?
YOU CAN HAVE IT, WHAT'S LEFT OF IT, AND I HOPE YOU AND YOUR GRINGO PALS ROT IN HELL!
...HE ADVISES THE CITIZENS OF THEIR PRECARIOUS SITUATION, URGING THEM TO EVACUATE WITH HIS TROOPS.
BUT THE RE-INVASION THREATS FAIL TO MATERIALIZE. MEXICO'S MILITARY LEADERS HAVE MIRED THEMSELVES IN AN ENDLESS HARANGUE TO PINPOINT RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE DISASTROUS TEXAS CAMPAIGN.
IF THEY'D BEEN WHERE THEY WERE SUPPOSED TO BE..
YOU CAN'T HANG THIS THING ON ME! IT WASN'T MY FAULT!!
DON'T BLAME ME!

GRADUALLY FAMILIES BEGIN TO RECLAIM THEIR WRECKED HOMES, TO REBUILD AND CARRY ON AS BEFORE. THE *FLAG* MAY BE DIFFERENT, BUT THE *LAND* IS UNCHANGED. LIFE HAS NEVER BEEN A CERTAIN THING IN TEXAS.

FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL SERVICE IN THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE, JUAN IS PROMOTED TO LT-COL. AND ORDERED TO TAKE OVER THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT OF BEXAR UNTIL CIVIL RULE CAN BE RESTORED.

HE IS GRANTED A LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO SEE ABOUT HIS FAMILY IN EAST TEXAS. HE FINDS THEM DESTITUTE, ALL SICK WITH FEVER, AND BECOMES SICK HIMSELF.

AFTER SEVERAL DEATHS, THE FAMILY DECIDES TO LEAVE THE PESTILENTIAL CLIMATE AND TRIES TO MAKE ITS WAY HOME. IT IS A PITIFUL SPECTACLE. ANTONIO MENCHACA, ALSO THERE TO SEE TO HIS FAMILY'S SAFETY, IS THE ONLY ONE STRONG ENOUGH TO DRIVE AND CARE FOR THE SICK.
CUMON OLD HORSE..ONLY 300 MILES TO GO!
IT IS OCTOBER BEFORE JUAN IS WELL ENOUGH TO TAKE CONTROL OF BEXAR. HIS APPEARANCE DOES MUCH TO RESTORE ORDER AND CONFIDENCE AMONG THE OLD-TIME TEJANO RESIDENTS, UNCERTAIN OF THEIR FATE IN THE NEW ORDER OF THINGS.
OUR SAVIOR!
THANKS BE TO THE HOLY MOTHER!
HE GATHERS THE ASHES OF THE ALAMO MARTYRS, AND AFTER A SOLEMN CEREMONY, INTERS THEM IN AN OLD PEACH ORCHARD ONCE USED AS A MILITARY CEMETERY.
THE WORTHY REMAINS OF OUR VENERABLE COMPANIONS BEARING WITNESS, I ASK YOU TO TELL THE WORLD TEXAS SHALL BE FREE AND INDEPENDENT, OR WE SHALL PERISH WITH GLORY IN BATTLE!!

A SMALL PORTION OF THE ASHES ARE QUIETLY PLACED IN AN URN AND BURIED IN THE SAN FERNANDO CATHEDRAL OUT OF RESPECT FOR THE CATHOLICS AMONG THOSE FALLEN.

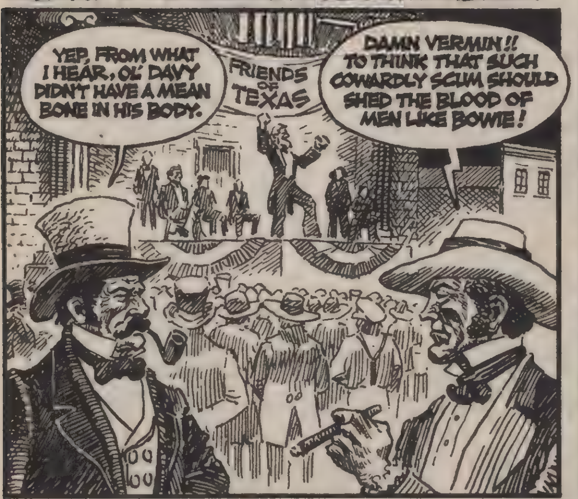
BUT HIS JOB IS AN IMPOSSIBLE ONE. PROVIDED WITH NEITHER MONEY NOR SUPPLIES BY THE FLEDGLING REPUBLIC, HE MUST MAKE REQUISITIONS ON THE CITIZENS. DISSATISFACTION IS INEVITABLE.

PART OF HIS JOB AS JEFE IS THE FERRETING OUT OF "ENEMY" SYMPATHIZERS AND OUTRIGHT SPIES — NOT A PLEASANT TASK, FOR MANY OF HIS OLD ACQUAINTANCES FALL INTO THIS CATEGORY.

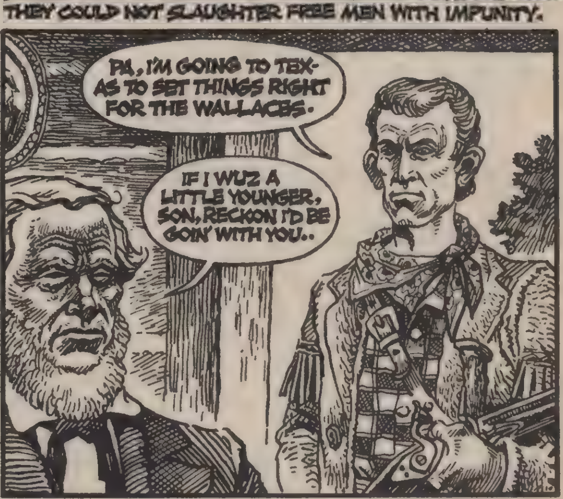
TO ADD TO JUAN'S PROBLEMS AMONG HIS OWN PEOPLE, THERE IS AN INFLUX OF ANGLO NEWCOMERS, MOST OF WHOM ARRIVED TOO LATE TO EVEN FIRE A GUN IN THE REVOLUTION. NOW, THEY ARE PENNILESS, ADRIFT, AND PRONE TO MISCHIEF.

SEGUIN AND HIS FELLOW TEJANOS FAIL TO GRASP THE *INTENSITY*, THE DEEP NEED FOR VENGEANCE, THAT MOTIVATED THESE RECRUITS TO RUSH TO THE DEFENSE OF TEXAS. BACK IN THE STATES, LURID ACCOUNTS OF THE MEXICAN ATROCITIES AT THE ALAMO AND GOLIAD, EMOTIONAL PUBLIC RALLIES ON THE FATE FACED BY THEIR KINSMEN IN TEXAS — COUPLED WITH PERSONAL FAMILY LOSSES — ALL WORKED TO CREATE A FRENZY OF HATRED AGAINST THE "MONSTER MEXICO".

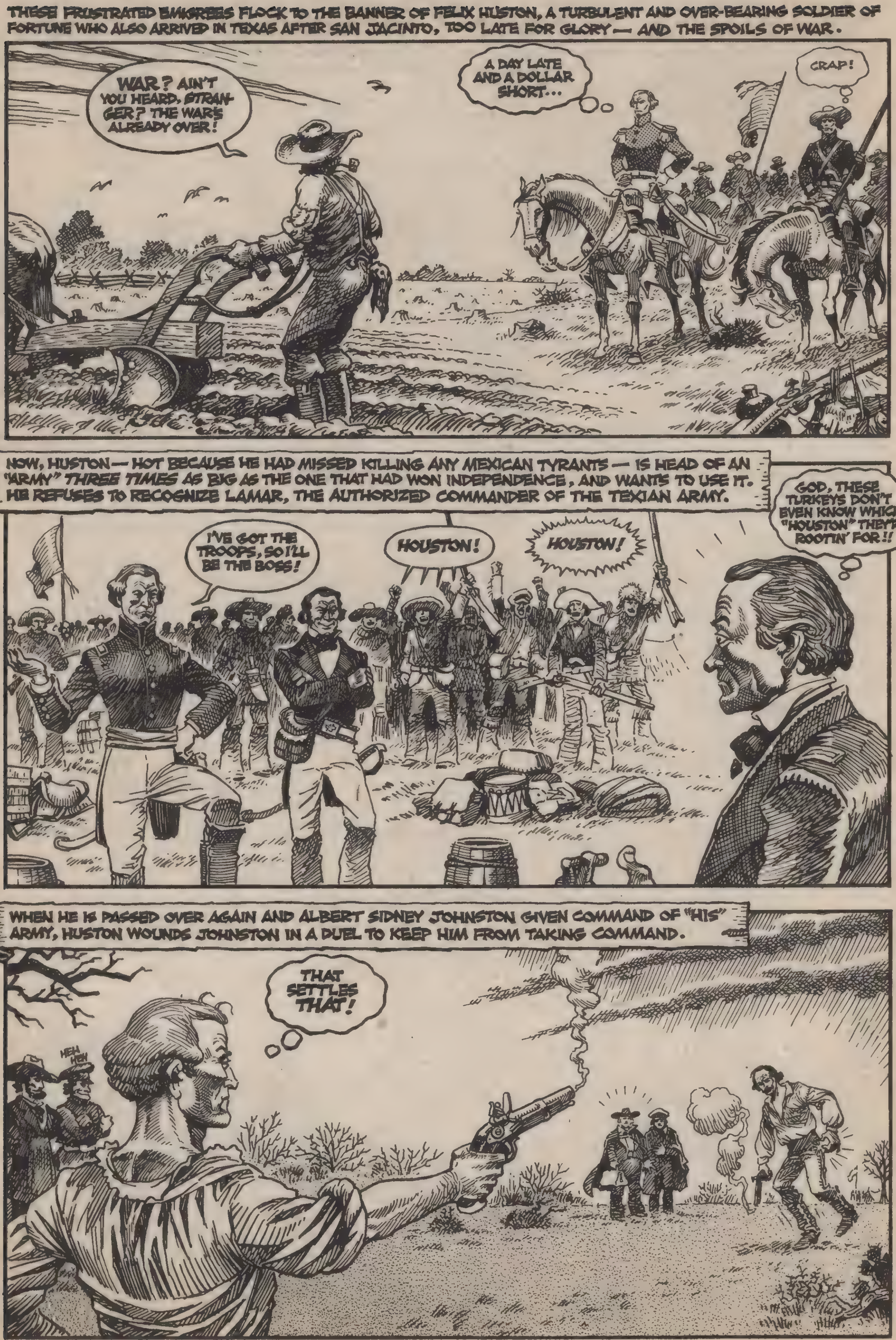
THE SENSELESS BUTCHERY OF THE GOLIAD VICTIMS AND THE DEATH OF POPULAR FOLK HEROES LIKE CROCKETT AND BOWIE *CRIED OUT* TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR ATONEMENT.



MANY SONS OF LIBERTY, LIKE YOUNG WILLIAM A.A. WALLACE (LATER TO BE KNOWN AS "BIGFOOT"), FELT IT WAS THEIR SACRED DUTY TO TEACH THE "TREACHEROUS" MEXICANS THAT THEY COULD NOT SLAUGHTER FREE MEN WITH IMPUNITY.

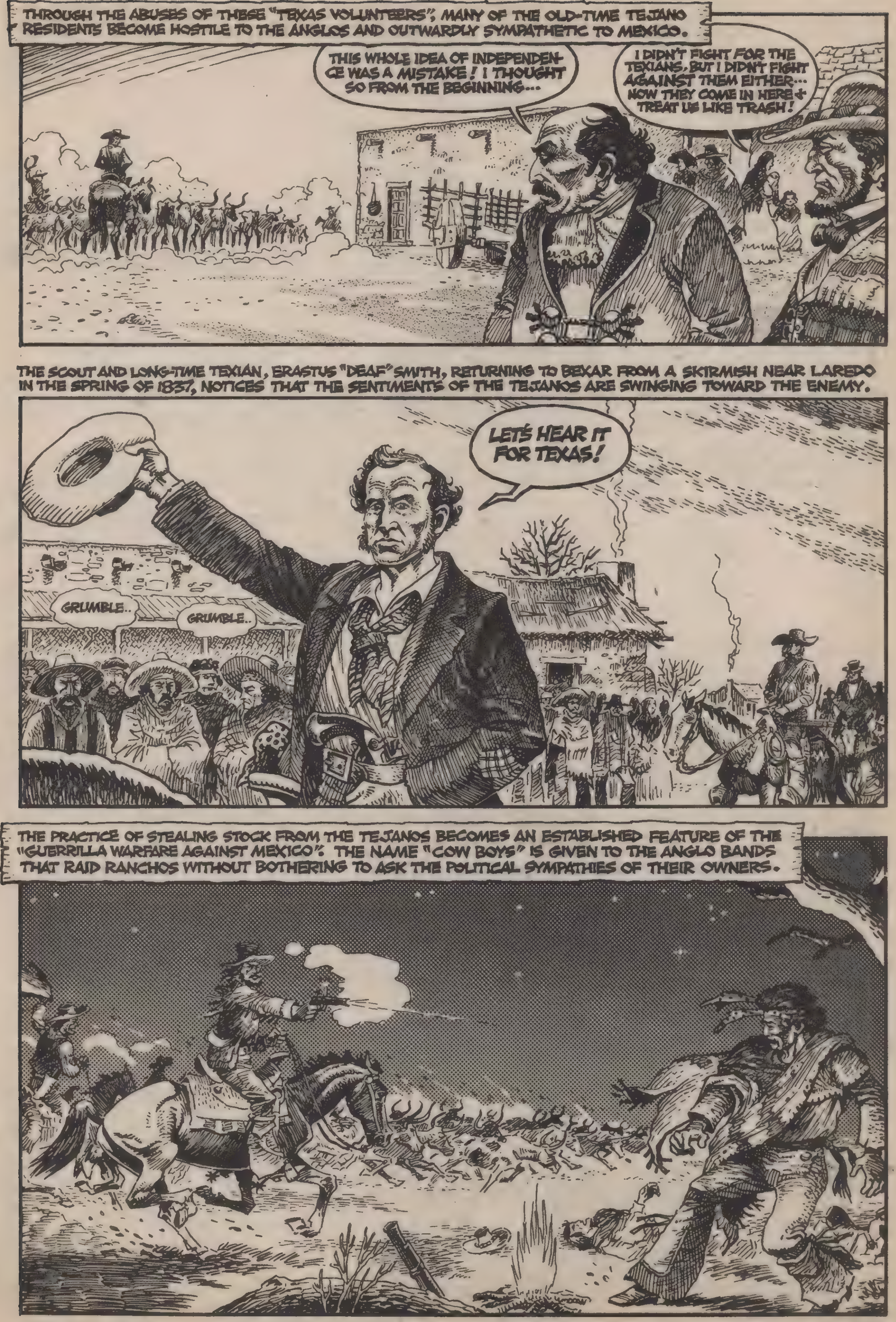


AND SO THEY CAME, FROM ALL SECTIONS OF THE YOUNG, ENERGETIC NATION, ARMED WITH LONG RIFLES AND THE CONSUMING PASSION, THE SELF-RIGHTEOUS INJUNCTION — *MAKE THE MEXICANS PAY!!*

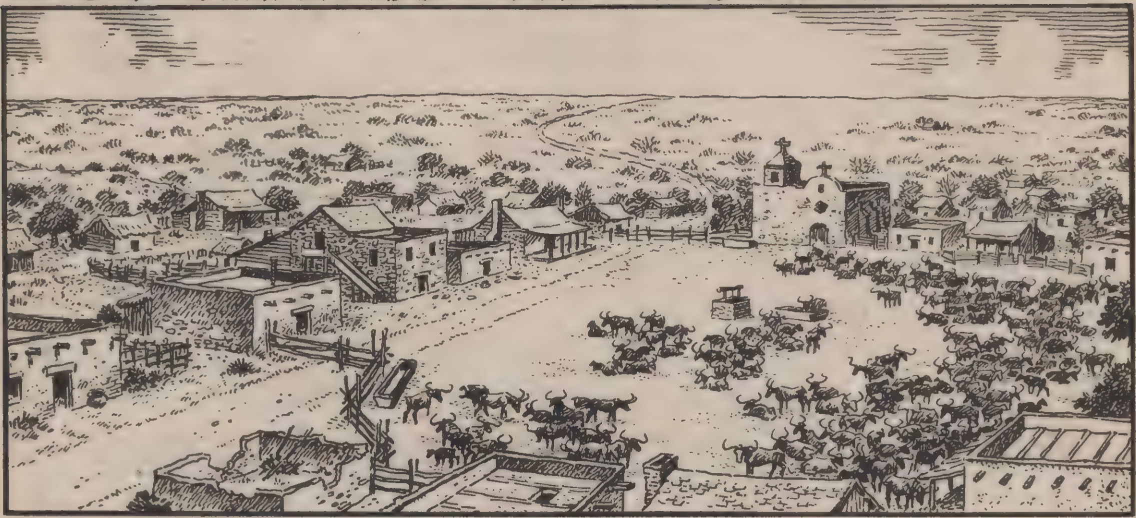

THESE FRUSTRATED EMIGREES FLOCK TO THE BANNER OF FELIX HUSTON, A TURBULENT AND OVER-BEARING SOLDIER OF FORTUNE WHO ALSO ARRIVED IN TEXAS AFTER SAN JACINTO, TOO LATE FOR GLORY — AND THE SPOILS OF WAR.
WAR? AIN'T YOU HEARD, STRANGER? THE WAR'S ALREADY OVER!
A DAY LATE AND A DOLLAR SHORT...
CRAP!
NOW, HUSTON — HOT BECAUSE HE HAD MISSED KILLING ANY MEXICAN TYRANTS — IS HEAD OF AN "ARMY" THREE TIMES AS BIG AS THE ONE THAT HAD WON INDEPENDENCE, AND WANTS TO USE IT. HE REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE LAMAR, THE AUTHORIZED COMMANDER OF THE TEXIAN ARMY.
I'VE GOT THE TROOPS, SO I'LL BE THE BOSS!
HOUSTON!
HOUSTON!
GOD, THESE TURKEYS DON'T EVEN KNOW WHICH "HOUSTON" THEY'RE ROOTIN' FOR!!
WHEN HE IS PASSED OVER AGAIN AND ALBERT SIDNEY JOHNSTON GIVEN COMMAND OF "HIS" ARMY, HUSTON WOUNDS JOHNSTON IN A DUEL TO KEEP HIM FROM TAKING COMMAND.
THAT SETTLES THAT!
HEH HEH

HUSTON HAD SPENT $40,000 BACK IN MISSISSIPPI, RAISING AND EQUIPPING 500 VOLUNTEERS TO COME FIGHT IN TEXAS, AND HE DOESN'T PLAN TO LOSE HIS INVESTMENT!
ALL THOSE RICH MEXICANS DOWN AT BEXAR— WE OUGHT TO PUT THEM IN THEIR PLACE!!
YEAH, WHAT RIGHT DO THEY HAVE TO KEEP ALL THOSE BIG LAND GRANTS? WHAT WAS THE DANG WAR FOUGHT FOR, ANYWAY?!
HUSTON AND HIS CRONIES DEVISE A PLAN TO MOVE ALL THE TEJANO POPULATION OUT OF BEXAR SO THEY CAN RAVAGE THE AREA AT THEIR CONVENIENCE.
TELL 'UM THEY'VE GOT TO EVACUATE TO THE EAST SIDE OF THE GUADALUPE, CAUSE THEY'RE TOO EXPOSED DOWN THERE TO ATTACK FROM MEXICO!
CHUCKLE CHUCKLE
WHEN SEGUIN IS HANDED THE ORDERS TO SCUTTLE AND ABANDON SAN ANTONIO, HE REFUSES TO CARRY THEM OUT AND APPEALS DIRECTLY TO PRESIDENT SAM HOUSTON.
I'M IN CHARGE HERE.. I'LL DECIDE WHEN WE STAY AND WHEN WE GO!
YOU'LL BE SORRY FOR THIS, HOTSHOT. WE'VE GOT POWERFUL FRIENDS AND THE ARMY BEHIND US.
THE PRESIDENT TAKES JUAN'S SIDE AND PREVAILS UPON HUSTON TO DESIST.
SEGUIN IS A PROVEN PATRIOT— HIS JUDGEMENT I TRUST. WHO THE HELL IS THIS FELIX "HUSTON" CHARACTER ANYWAY? I'VE GOT A FEELING HE'S IN THIS FOR SOMETHING BESIDES THE WELFARE OF TEXAS!
SO JUAN SAVES HIS TOWN FROM DESTRUCTION, BUT HE HAS MADE A BITTER ENEMY IN FELIX HUSTON.
SOONER OR LATER I'LL GET THAT UPPITY SEGUIN!

HUSTON'S ARMY IS SOON FURLOUGHED OUT FROM UNDER HIM, BUT MANY OF HIS "SOLDIERS" STAY TO PLAGUE THE CITIZENS AROUND BEXAR AND PREY UPON THE IRISH AND DE LEON COLONISTS.
THESE HERE LOOK LIKE MESKIN' COWS TO ME..
YEAH— SPOILS OF WAR! HAHA
ENCOUNTERS BETWEEN TEJANOS, LIKE YOUNG AGAPITO de LEON, AND THE FORAGING ANGLOS, LIKE "MUSTANG" GRAY, SOMETIMES TURN UGLY.
THOSE ARE MY FATHER'S CATTLE! AS YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE, THEY BEAR THE DE LEON BRAND.
IZZAT RIGHT?? WELL I FIGHT FOR TEXAS SONNYBOY, AND EVERYTHING IN TEXAS BELONGS TO ME—
NOT TO THE LIKES OF YOU!!!

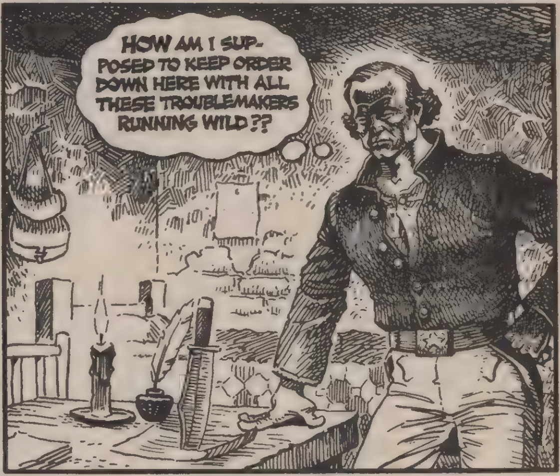

THROUGH THE ABUSES OF THESE "TEXAS VOLUNTEERS", MANY OF THE OLD-TIME TEJANO RESIDENTS BECOME HOSTILE TO THE ANGLOS AND OUTWARDLY SYMPATHETIC TO MEXICO.
THIS WHOLE IDEA OF INDEPENDENCE WAS A MISTAKE! I THOUGHT SO FROM THE BEGINNING...
I DIDN'T FIGHT FOR THE TEXIANS, BUT I DIDN'T FIGHT AGAINST THEM EITHER... NOW THEY COME IN HERE & TREAT US LIKE TRASH!
THE SCOUT AND LONG-TIME TEXIAN, ERASTUS "DEAF" SMITH, RETURNING TO BEXAR FROM A SKIRMISH NEAR LAREDO IN THE SPRING OF 1837, NOTICES THAT THE SENTIMENTS OF THE TEJANOS ARE SWINGING TOWARD THE ENEMY.
LET'S HEAR IT FOR TEXAS!
GRUMBLE..
GRUMBLE..
THE PRACTICE OF STEALING STOCK FROM THE TEJANOS BECOMES AN ESTABLISHED FEATURE OF THE "GUERRILLA WARFARE AGAINST MEXICO". THE NAME "COW BOYS" IS GIVEN TO THE ANGLO BANDS THAT RAID RANCHOS WITHOUT BOTHERING TO ASK THE POLITICAL SYMPATHIES OF THEIR OWNERS.

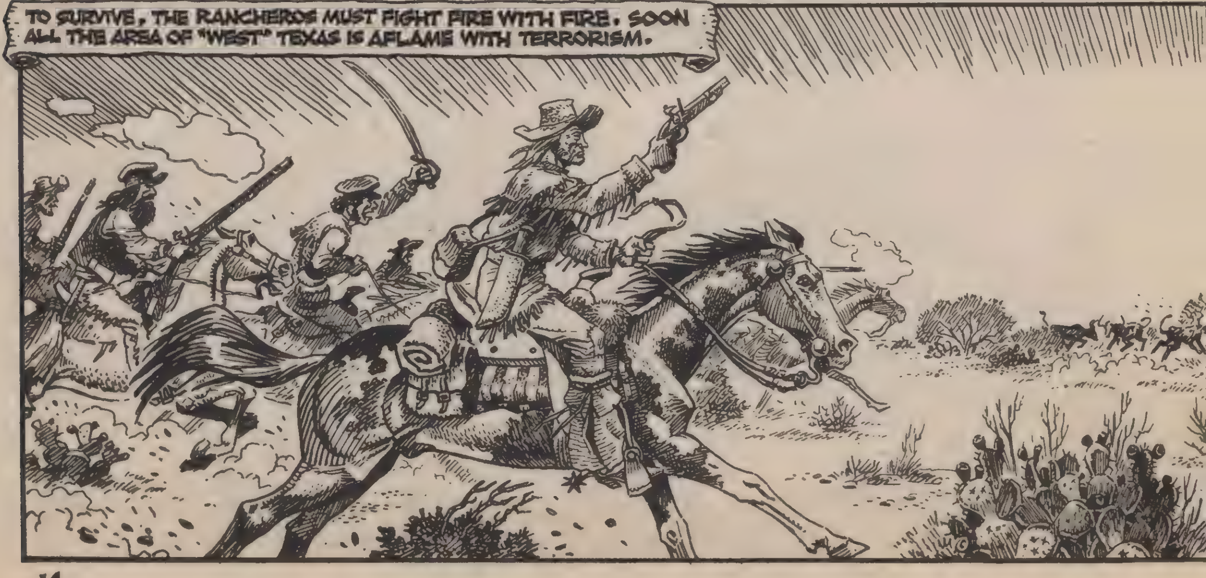
SOON THE FAR-FLUNG COUNTIES ARE VIRTUALLY UNDER THE CONTROL OF THIS WILD "COW BOY" ELEMENT, AND THE DESERTED FRONTIER TOWNS ARE LITTLE MORE THAN DEPOTS FOR THEIR "LIBERATED" CATTLE HERDS.



AT FIRST THEY RESTRICT THEIR OPERATIONS MOSTLY TO RAIDS BELOW THE NUECES, PLUNDERING "LOYALIST" RANCHOS, BUT SOON DISCOVER THE RICH POSSIBILITIES CLOSER TO HOME.

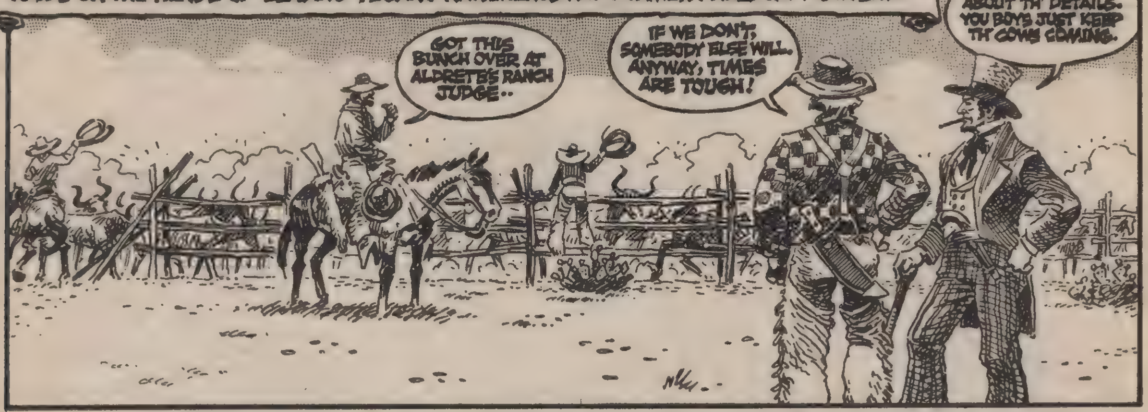
YOUNG HENRY WAX KARNES, HEAD OF TEXAN CAVALRY FORCES ON THE FRONTIER, TENDERS HIS RESIGNATION IN DISGUST BECAUSE OF THE REPUBLIC'S LICENSING OF THESE "COWBOYS"— WHO ARE IN FACT ONLY OUTLAWS.



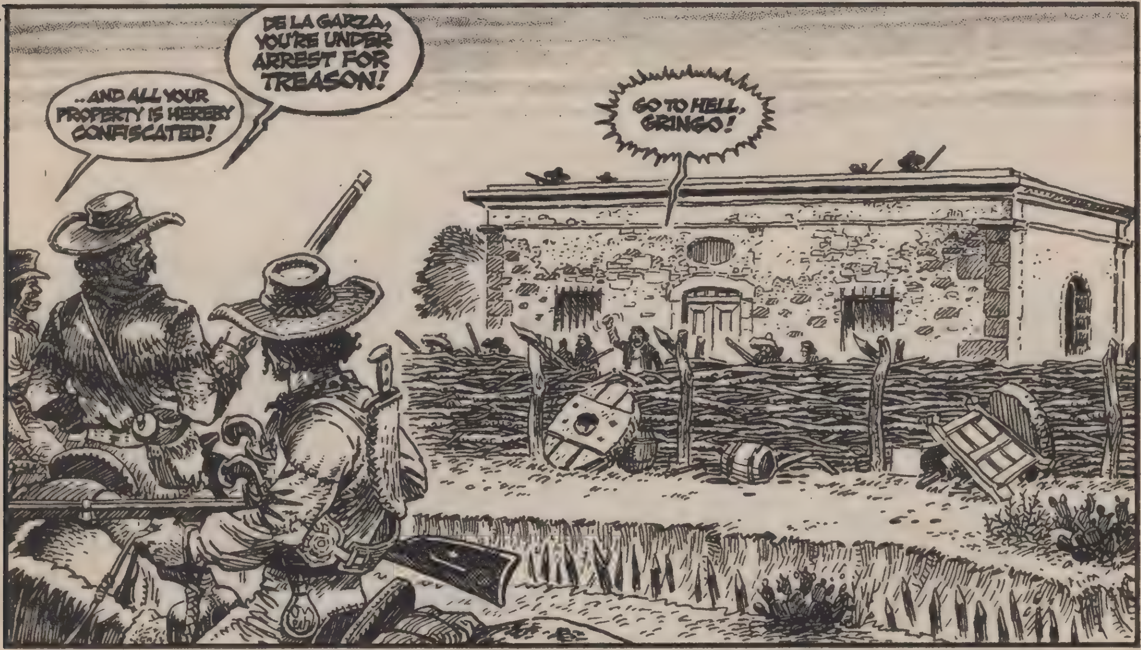


OTHER TEJANOS, LIKE AGATÓN QUIÑONES, TURN TO A LIFE OF BANDITRY, FORMING CATTLE RAIDS OF THEIR OWN AND PREYING UPON TRADERS WHO DARE TO VENTURE ACROSS THE "NUECES STRIP" WHICH RAPIDLY BECOMES A NO-MAN'S LAND.
BUT MY WIFE IS MEXICAN..
OH, THAT'S OKAY. WE ROB MEXICANS TOO!
YEAH, WE'RE VERY OPEN-MINDED.
JUAN AND ERASMO SEGUIN'S PROPERTY— DECIMATED BY THE REVOLUTION — IS NOW SUBJECTED TO SIMILAR TREATMENT BY "COWBOYS" AND "BANDIDOS" ALIKE.
...AT THE CONQUISTA CROSSING!
VAQUEROS! TO YOUR HORSES!!

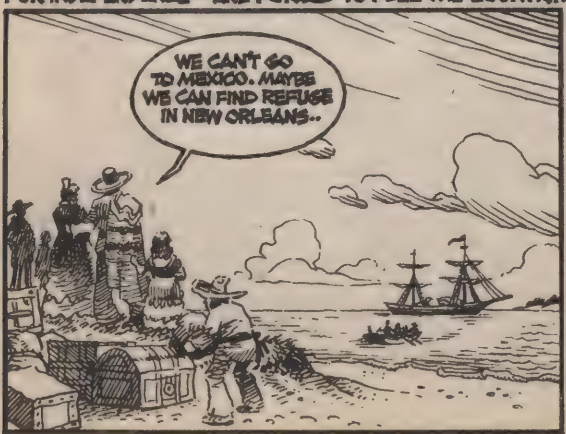
SOME HIGH-PLACED ANGLOS PARTICIPATE IN THE TRADE OF STOLEN CATTLE, EVEN BACKING RAIDS ON THE HERDS OF LEADING TEJANO RANCHEROS AND FORMER FREEDOM-FIGHTERS.



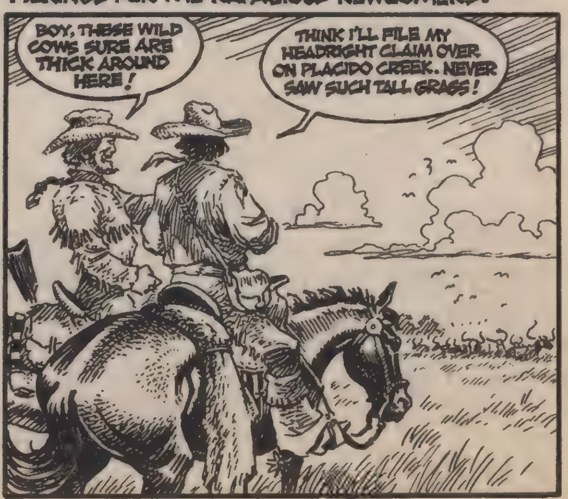
MOST OF THE TEJANOS AT GOLIAD RETREAT TO CARLOS RANCHO AND BAND TOGETHER FOR SELF-PROTECTION.



AT VICTORIA, WHERE THE VOLUNTEERS HAVE THEIR HEADQUARTERS, THE TEJANOS SUFFER WORST. INDIGNITIES ARE HEAPED UPON THEM, AND MANY OF THE PROMINENT FAMILIES, LIKE THE DE LEONS, THE CARVAJALS, AND PLACIDO BENAVIDES'—ALL EARLY PARTICIPANTS IN THE STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE—ARE FORCED TO FLEE THE COUNTRY.



ONCE THEY ARE GONE, THEIR VAST CATTLE HERDS AND EXTENSIVE LAND HOLDINGS BECOME EASY PICKINGS FOR THE RAPACIOUS NEWCOMERS.



A BRISK BUSINESS IN HEADRIGHT CERTIFICATES DEVELOPS AROUND SAN ANTONIO. ALMOST OVERNIGHT, POTENTIAL OWNERSHIP OF THE LAND PASSES FROM THE HANDS OF TEJANOS TO A FEW ANGLO SPECULATORS.
WHAT DO YOU NEED 4,000 ACRES FOR, PEDRO? YOU'VE NEVER BEEN OUT OF TOWN IN YOUR LIFE! I'LL GIVE YOU $700 — AND THAT'S TOP DOLLAR!!
GEE, $700! I NEVER SAW SO MUCH MONEY!!
TAKE IT.. TAKE IT.
ALSO ENGAGING IN THIS BUSINESS ARE SOME TEJANOS, INCLUDING JUAN SEGUIN — WHO NOT ONLY BUY FOR THEMSELVES, BUT ACT AS GO-BETWEENS FOR THEIR ILLITERATE TOWNSMEN WHO WANT TO CASH IN ON THE REPUBLIC'S GENEROUS LAND POLICY. (SEE NOTE)
ARE YOU SURE YOU WANT TO SELL, BLAS?
WHY NOT? AFTER ALL, IT'S FREE MONEY — AND YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN SANTA ANNA WILL BE BACK!
WHILE NO ONE GETS RICH QUICK THROUGH LAND SPECULATION, THE FOUNDATIONS ARE LAID FOR FUTURE FORTUNES BY THE TRAFFIC IN HEADRIGHT CERTIFICATES.
WELL MR. MAVERICK, THIS LATEST SURVEY BRINGS YOU UP TO A ROUND 50,000 ACRES OF THE FINEST RANCH LAND IN TEXAS!
YEAH, NOW ALL I NEED IS SOME CUSTOMERS.
BUT FOR THE TEJANOS WHO SELL, THEY LOSE NOT ONLY THEIR CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE IN THE "JEFFERSONIAN DREAM", THEY ALSO BARGAIN AWAY THEIR STAKE IN THE NEW REPUBLIC.
THINK OF IT, 'SEFA. WITH ALL THIS MONEY, I CAN FINALLY SET MYSELF UP AS A SHOEMAKER!
YEAH, BUT THERE GOES OUR CHANCE TO BE SOMEBODY — LANDOWNERS, NOT JUST PEONS LIKE WE'VE ALWAYS BEEN.
EARLY IN 1838 JUAN GOES TO CONGRESS TO SERVE AS SENATOR FROM BEXAR. HE TRIES TO PROMOTE UNDERSTANDING AND BETTER RELATIONS BETWEEN THE ANGLOS AND HIS PEOPLE.
IF NEW LAWS WERE ALSO PUBLISHED IN SPANISH, THEN THE TEJANOS WOULD KNOW BETTER THEIR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES TO OUR REPUBLIC IN THIS DIFFICULT TIME.
(NOTE: UNDER THE REPUBLIC, EVERY HEAD OF A HOUSEHOLD WAS ENTITLED TO A "LEAGUE AND LABOR" — 4,605½ ACRES.)

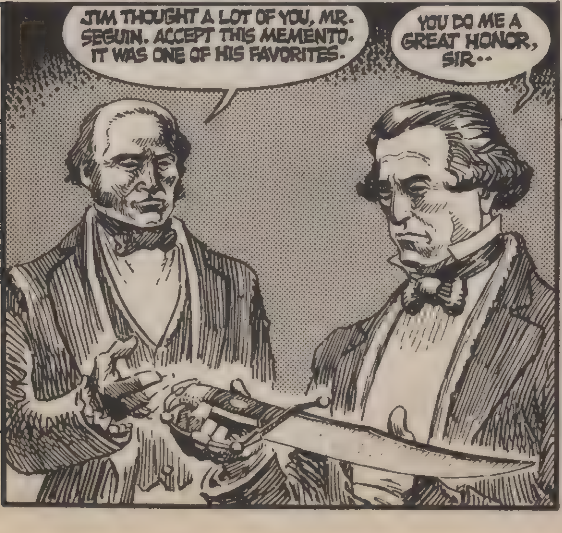
DESPITE HIS EFFORTS, THINGS AROUND BEXAR GROW WORSE. EVENTUALLY, TRADE ACROSS THE ENTIRE SOUTHWESTERN FRONTIER COMES ALMOST TO A STANDSTILL BECAUSE OF THE DEPREDATIONS OF THE RIVAL GANGS, ANGLO AND MEXICAN.
CANTINA DEL POBRE
GETTING TO WHERE IT'S NOT SAFE TO WALK THE STREETS AT NIGHT...
NIGHT, HELL. I AVOID IT IN THE DAYTIME!
ERASMO SEGUIN, AS JUSTICE OF THE PEACE IN BEXAR COUNTY, ORDERS THE SHERIFF TO ARREST ONE NOTORIOUS GROUP OF ANGLOS WHO HAVE BEEN ROBBING AND MURDERING TRADERS PLYING THE BORDER ROUTE. TESTIFYING IN THE CASE IS ONE OF THE EARLIEST RECRUITS IN JUAN'S COMPANY, BUT JUSTICE IS HARD TO COME BY FOR MEXICANS IN THESE TROUBLED TIMES.
YOUR HONOR, SINCE WE DON'T GOT A JAIL, WE VOTE TO RELEASE THEM ON BAIL..
WITH THE OPENING OF THE LAND OFFICE, SAN ANTONIO SINKS INTO A PITHOLE, OVERRUN BY THE DREGS OF SOCIETY.
YEE HAW
WAHWHOO
IF THIS KEEPS UP MUCH LONGER, I'M TAKING THE CHILDREN AND GOING BACK TO ALABAMA!

A "VOLUNTEER" NAMED TINSLEY PROVOKES A QUARREL WITH AND KILLS A YOUNGER BROTHER OF JOSE ANTONIO NAVARRO— BUT NOT BEFORE EUGENIO PUTS A KNIFE INTO HIS ASSASSIN.

ONLY THE FACT THAT BOTH MEN PERISH KEEPS THE TWO SIDES FROM DEEPENING THE FLOW OF BLOOD.

NEVERTHELESS, JUAN REMAINS STEADFAST IN HIS CONVICTION THAT JUSTICE WILL PREVAIL. SERVING ON THE SENATE'S COMMITTEE OF MILITARY AFFAIRS, HE ACCOMPANIES LAMAR ON THE "BUFFALO HUNT" THAT VIEWS THE SPOT LATER TO BE SELECTED FOR THE NEW CAPITAL OF TEXAS.

REZIN BOWIE EMPOWERS HIM TO ADMINISTER THE ESTATE OF HIS FAMOUS BROTHER, MARTYRED IN THE ALAMO.



JUAN'S SERVICES TO THE REPUBLIC ARE NOT FORGOTTEN BY THE OLD, "HOME-GROWN" TEXIAN FREEDOM-FIGHTERS.

WHILE HE IS VISITING THE RANCHO OF HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW MANUEL FLORES ON THE GUADALUPE, THE RESIDENTS OF NEARBY WALNUT SPRINGS — MOSTLY EARLY RANGERS — RENAME THEIR SETTLEMENT IN HIS HONOR.

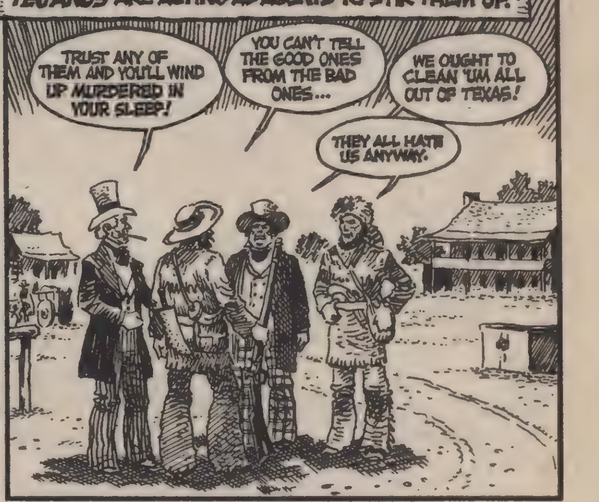
BUT NOT LONG AFTER OCCURS AN INCIDENT THAT DOES MUCH TO INTENSIFY SUSPICION OF *ALL* THE TEXAS-MEXICANS. A GROUP OF RANGERS CATCH SOME FOLLOWERS OF VICENTE CORDOVA WITH PAPERS FROM THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT, INCITING THE EAST TEXAS INDIANS TO *RISE UP* AGAINST THE ANGLOS.

THAT PREVIOUS FALL AT NACOGDOCHES, CÓRDOVA AND OTHER TEJANOS STILL LOYAL TO MEXICO — ALONG WITH A FEW ANGLO MALCONTENTS — HAD DISCLAIMED ALLEGIANCE TO TEXAS, AND AFTER CAUSING A MINOR FUSS, HAD DISPERSED TO THEIR FRIENDS AMONG THE INDIANS.

THE CHEROKEES AND OTHER EAST TEXAS TRIBES WERE NONE TOO HAPPY WITH THE REPUBLIC EITHER. CONGRESS HAD REFUSED TO HONOR HOUSTON'S TREATY, IN WHICH THEY WERE FINALLY TO GET TITLE TO THE RICH LANDS THEY OCCUPIED.

THE RESULT OF THE SHORT-LIVED "CÓRDOVA REBELLION" WAS THAT MOST OF THE ENCLAVE OF EAST TEXAS TEJANOS WERE FORCED TO ABANDON THEIR HOMES AND FLEE SOUTHWARD.

ALL OVER TEXAS THE WORD SPREADS: THE MEXICANS ARE IN LEAGUE WITH THE INDIANS, AND *TEJANOS* ARE ACTING AS AGENTS TO STIR THEM UP.

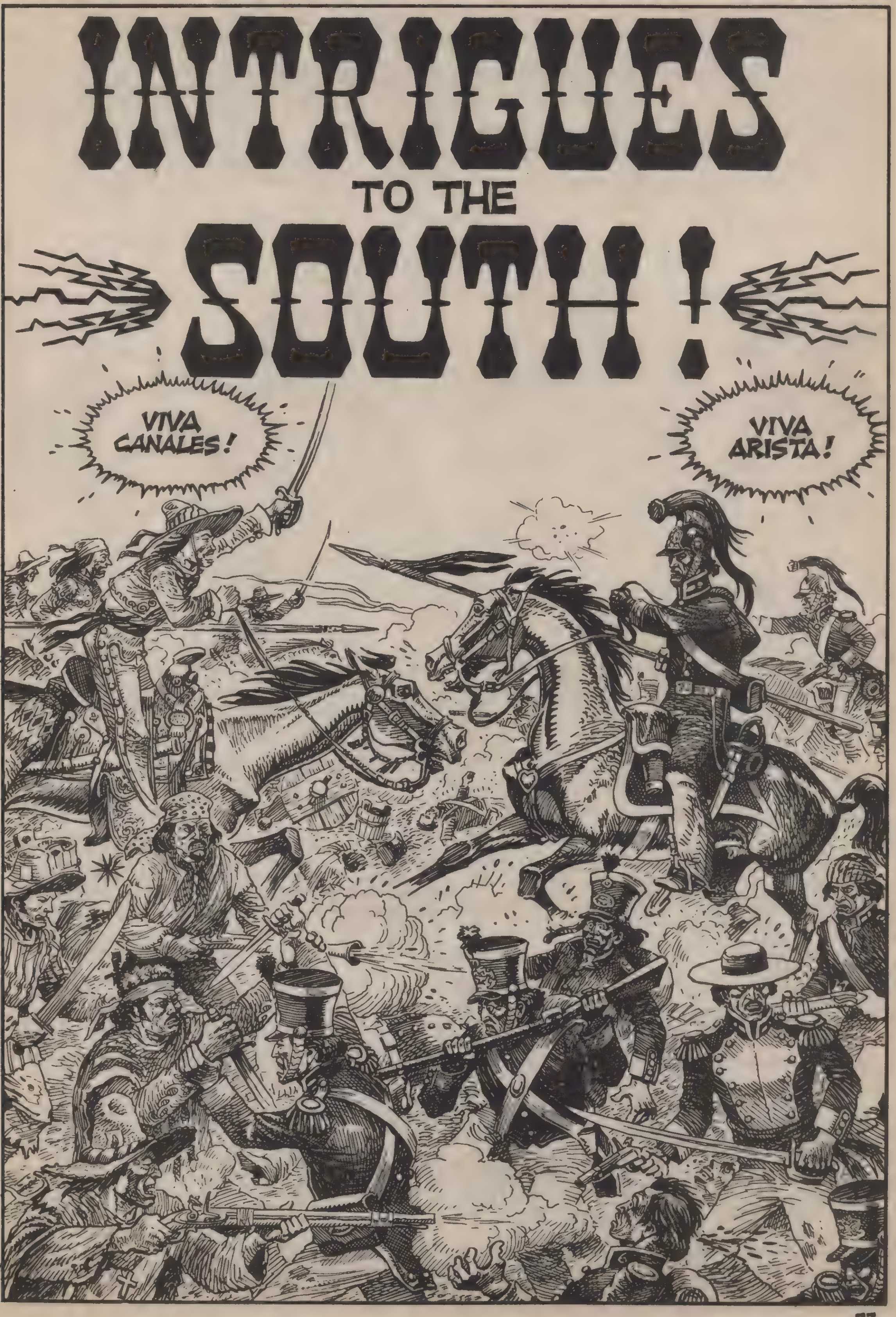


TO HELP COUNTER THE RISING HOSTILITY AGAINST THEM, JUAN AND OTHER TEJANO VOLUNTEERS RIDE WITH CAPT. JACK HAYS' RANGERS WHILE CONGRESS IS IN RECESS.

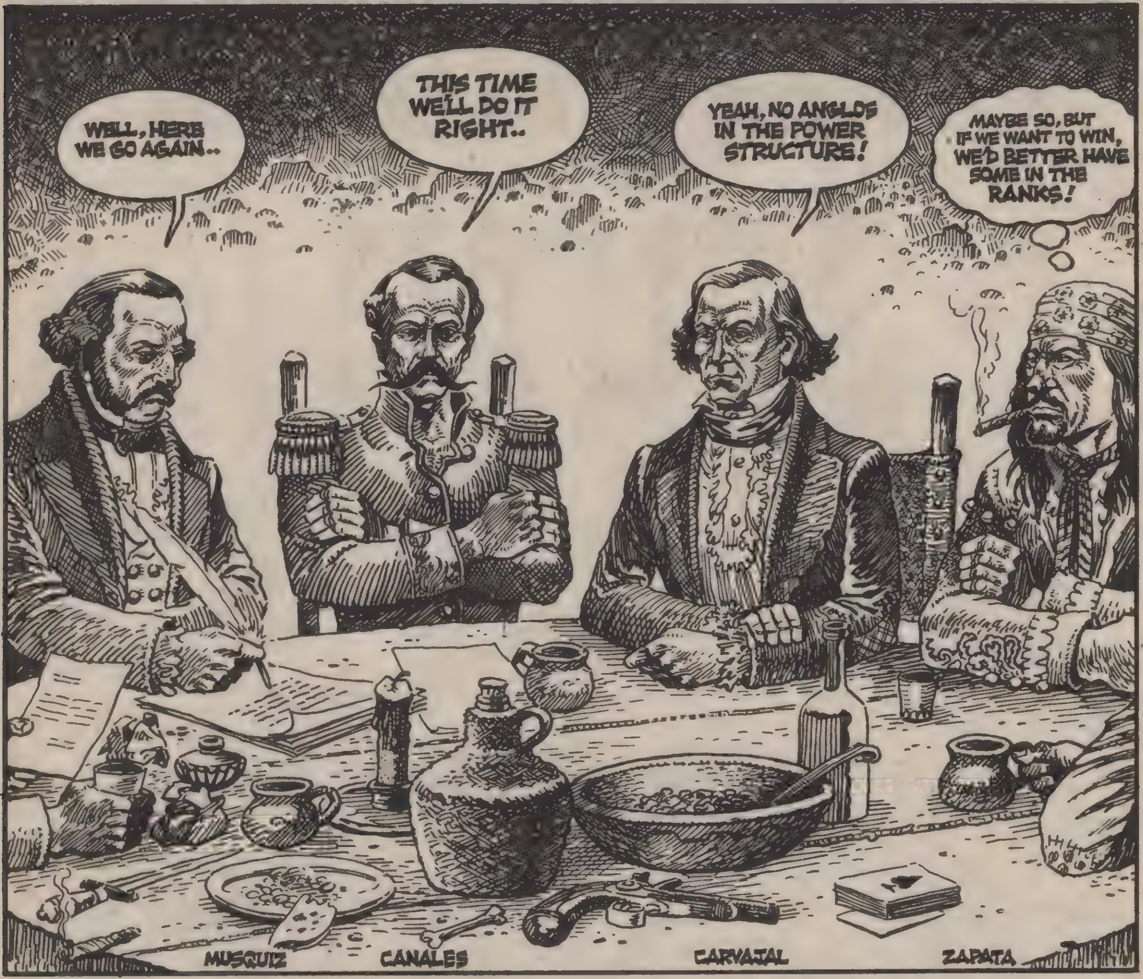
BUT THE COMANCHES FIND THEM FIRST, AT UVALDE CANYON, AND THE RANGERS ARE FORCED TO FIGHT FOR THEIR LIVES.

DESPITE THE UNCERTAIN TIMES, THE TEJANOS STILL FIND TIME FOR FESTIVITIES. MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY, SEPT. 16TH, IS CELEBRATED IN SAN ANTONIO. THE PROCESSION ENDS AMID MUCH GAIETY AT THE HOUSE OF JOSE FLORES, JUAN'S FATHER-IN-LAW.

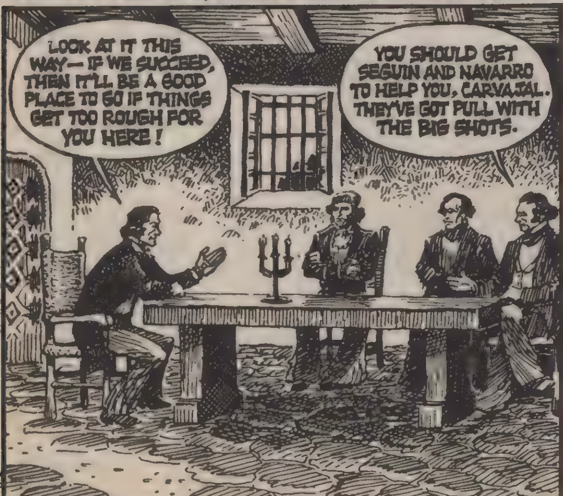
SOUTH OF THE BORDER, HOWEVER, FESTIVITIES ARE HARDER TO COME BY, FOR ANOTHER WAR IS RAGING... FEDERALISTS ARE AGAIN FIGHTING CENTRALISTS FOR MORE AUTONOMY IN THE NORTHERN STATES OF MEXICO.



MANY INFLUENTIAL LEADERS IN THE FEDERALIST WARS ARE FORMER TEJANOS WHO HAVE BECOME DISILLUSIONED WITH THE COURSE OF THE TEXAS REPUBLIC. THEY INCLUDE RAMON MUSQUIZ, FORMER POLITICAL CHIEF OF BEXAR; JOSE ANTONIO MEJIA, "PROFESSIONAL" LIBERAL LEADER AND LAND SPECULATOR; ANTONIO ZAPATA, A LARGE RANCHERO EAST OF THE RIO GRANDE; JOSE M. J. CARVAJAL, FORMER RESIDENT OF VICTORIA AND SON-IN-LAW OF THE COLONIZER MARTIN de LEON; ANTONIO CANALES, A CAMARGO LAWYER AND LONGTIME FOMENTOR OF BORDER POLITICS; AND OTHER MEN THAT ONCE HAD A HAND IN GUIDING THE AFFAIRS OF TEXAS — BUT A TEXAS UNDER *MEXICAN* RULE.



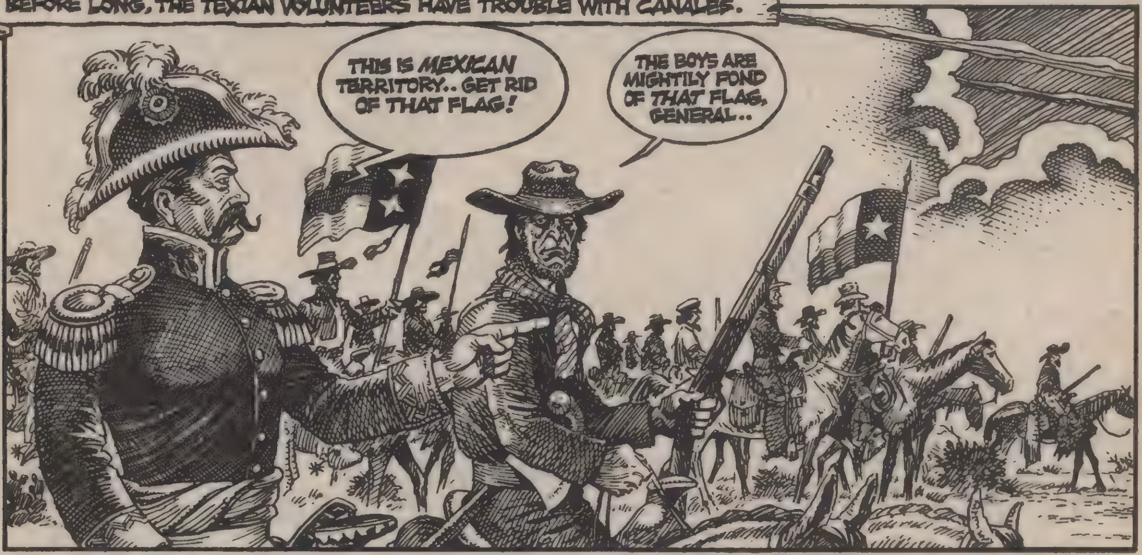
SAN ANTONIO BECOMES A HAVEN FOR THEM, AND MANY OF ITS TEJANO RESIDENTS FOLLOW WITH INTEREST THEIR EFFORTS TO SET UP A "FREE STATE" WITHIN MEXICO.



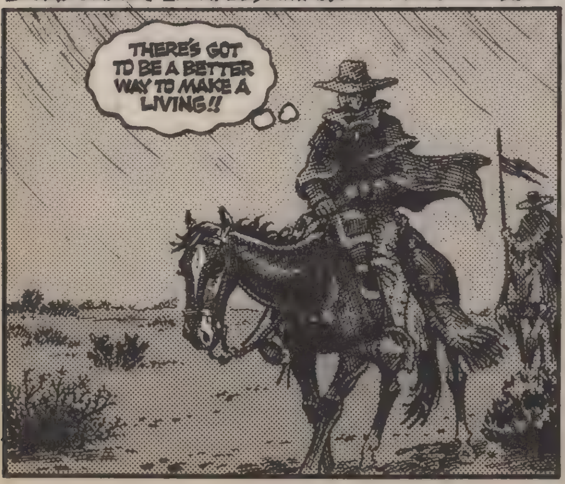
JOSE ANTONIO NAVARRO, WHO HAD REPRESENTED BEXAR COUNTY IN THE HOUSE OF THE THIRD CONGRESS AND RESIGNED HIS SEAT IN THE FOURTH BECAUSE OF ILLNESS, IS OFFERED A JOB AS AGENT BETWEEN THE FEDERALISTS AND THE REPUBLIC.

BUT THEY DO MANAGE TO ATTRACT TO THEIR RANKS A NUMBER OF TEXIAN VOLUNTEERS UNDER SUCH MEN AS COL. SAMUEL JORDAN, A FORMER RANGER CAPTAIN; COL. REUBEN ROSS, ONE OF GEN. FELIX HUSTON'S AIDES; AND EWEN CAMERON, LEADER OF THE VICTORIA "COWBOYS". EVEN JACK HAYS MARCHES SOUTH TO BRIEFLY FIGHT FOR THE FEDERALIST CAUSE.

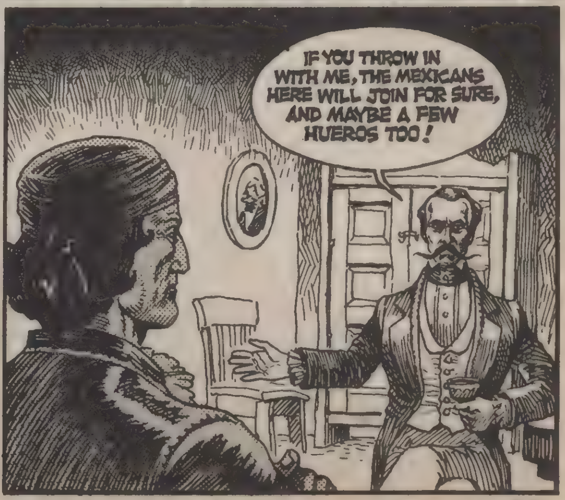
BEFORE LONG, THE TEXIAN VOLUNTEERS HAVE TROUBLE WITH CANALES.



AFTER A PROMISING START, THE FEDERALISTS SUFFER SOME SERIOUS SETBACKS. ZAPATA, THE MOST CAPABLE REBEL FIGHTER, IS CAPTURED AND EXECUTED. CANALES IS DEFEATED AND BARELY ESCAPES, LIMPING INTO SAN ANTONIO.

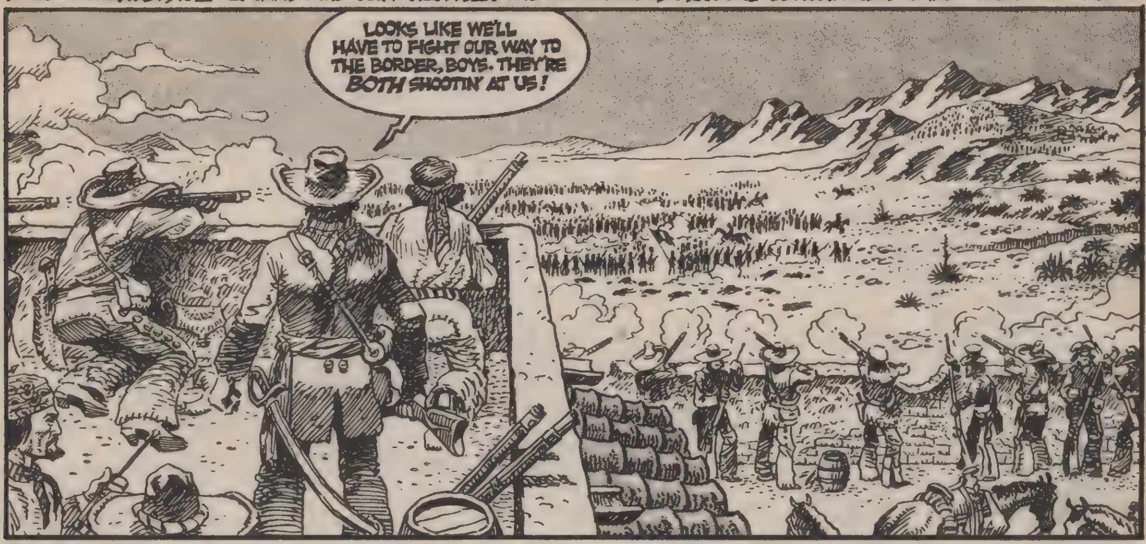


HE OFFERS JUAN, STILL A SENATOR FROM BEXAR, A HIGH POSITION IN THE ARMY OF THE "REPUBLIC OF THE RIO GRANDE" AND ASKS HIS HELP IN RECRUITING MEN FOR ANOTHER TRY.



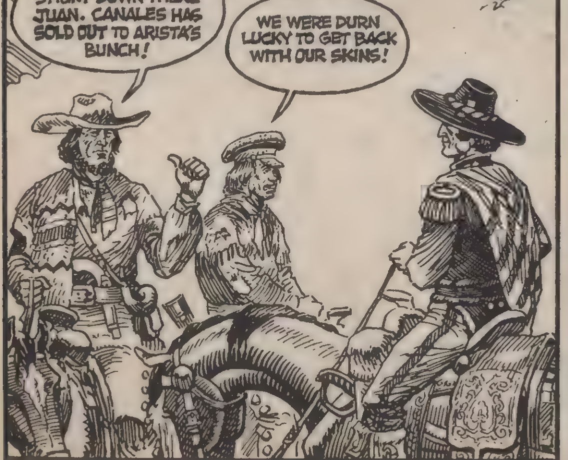
CANALES, BEARING A LETTER OF INTRODUCTION FROM SEGUIN, GOES TO SEE PRESIDENT LAMAR. NEITHER ONE TAKES TO THE OTHER VERY MUCH...
WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF OUR NEW SEAT OF GOVERNMENT, GEN. CANALIS?
ANOTHER BORDER BANDIT..
SMUG GRINGO.. HOPE HE'LL SELL ME SOME GUNS — ON CREDIT!
MARVELOUS, MR. PRESIDENT.
A MAJOR PROBLEM IS THE STRIP OF LAND BETWEEN THE NUECES AND THE RIO GRANDE, WHICH BOTH TEXAS AND THE FEDERALISTS CLAIM.
SAN ANTONIO de BEXAR
SEGUIN
GONZALES
SEGUIN'S RANCHO
CUERO
Rio San Antonio
VICTORIA
GOLIAD
Rio Nueces
REFUGIO
PRESIDIO del RIO GRANDE
LIPANTITLAN
SAN PATRICIO
CORPUS CHRISTI
COAHUILA
LAREDO
TAMAULIPAS
GULF OF MEXICO
MONCLOVA
NUEVO LEON
CAMARGO
REYNOSA
MONTERREY
MATAMOROS
WHAT ABOUT THE NUECES STRIP?
LET'S TALK ABOUT THAT LATER, AFTER YOU HELP ME WIN..
MEXICO
TEXAS
U.S.A
HOWEVER, SOME VOLUNTEERS ARE AGAIN RAISED IN TEXAS, UNDER MEN LIKE THE FORMER SEC. OF WAR OF HOUSTON'S ADMINISTRATION, WILLIAM FISHER. THE FEDERALISTS SET UP THEIR BASE OF OPERATIONS AT LIPANTITLAN, ON THE NUECES.
ANYTHING THAT WEAKENS THOSE CENTRALIST DICTATORS IS GOOD FOR TEXAS.

DEEP IN MEXICO, THE TEXIANS FIND THAT *NEITHER* THE FEDERALISTS NOR THE CENTRALISTS CARE MUCH FOR THEM.

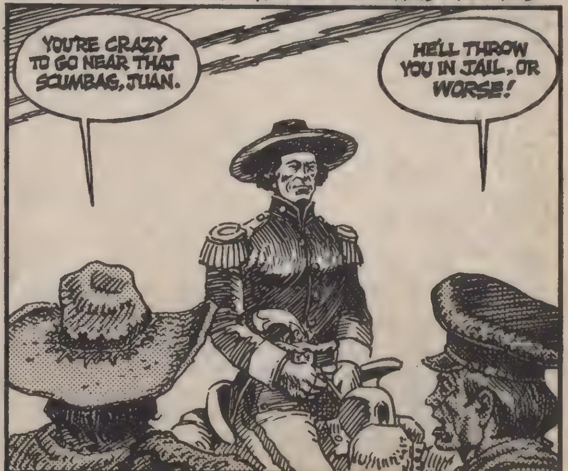


JUAN, UNAWARE OF THESE DEVELOPMENTS, RESIGNS HIS SEAT IN THE ADJOURNED FOURTH CONGRESS AND MARCHES AT THE HEAD OF 200 MEN TO JOIN THE FRAY.

AT THE RIO GRANDE, HE IS MET BY SOME OF THE TEXIANS RETURNING FROM THEIR BETRAYAL BY THE FEDERALISTS.

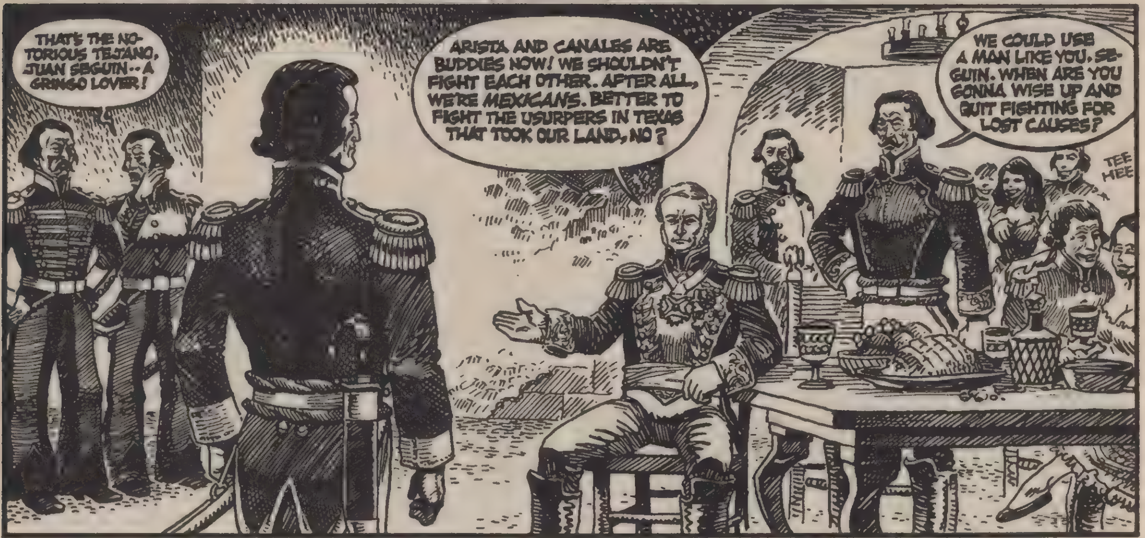


JUAN DECIDES TO VISIT CANALES AND SEE ABOUT COLLECTING SOME OF THE PAY HIS VOLUNTEERS WERE PROMISED, INCLUDING THE $4,000 HE HAD PERSONALLY SPENT OUTFITTING HIS COMPANY FOR FEDERALIST SERVICE.

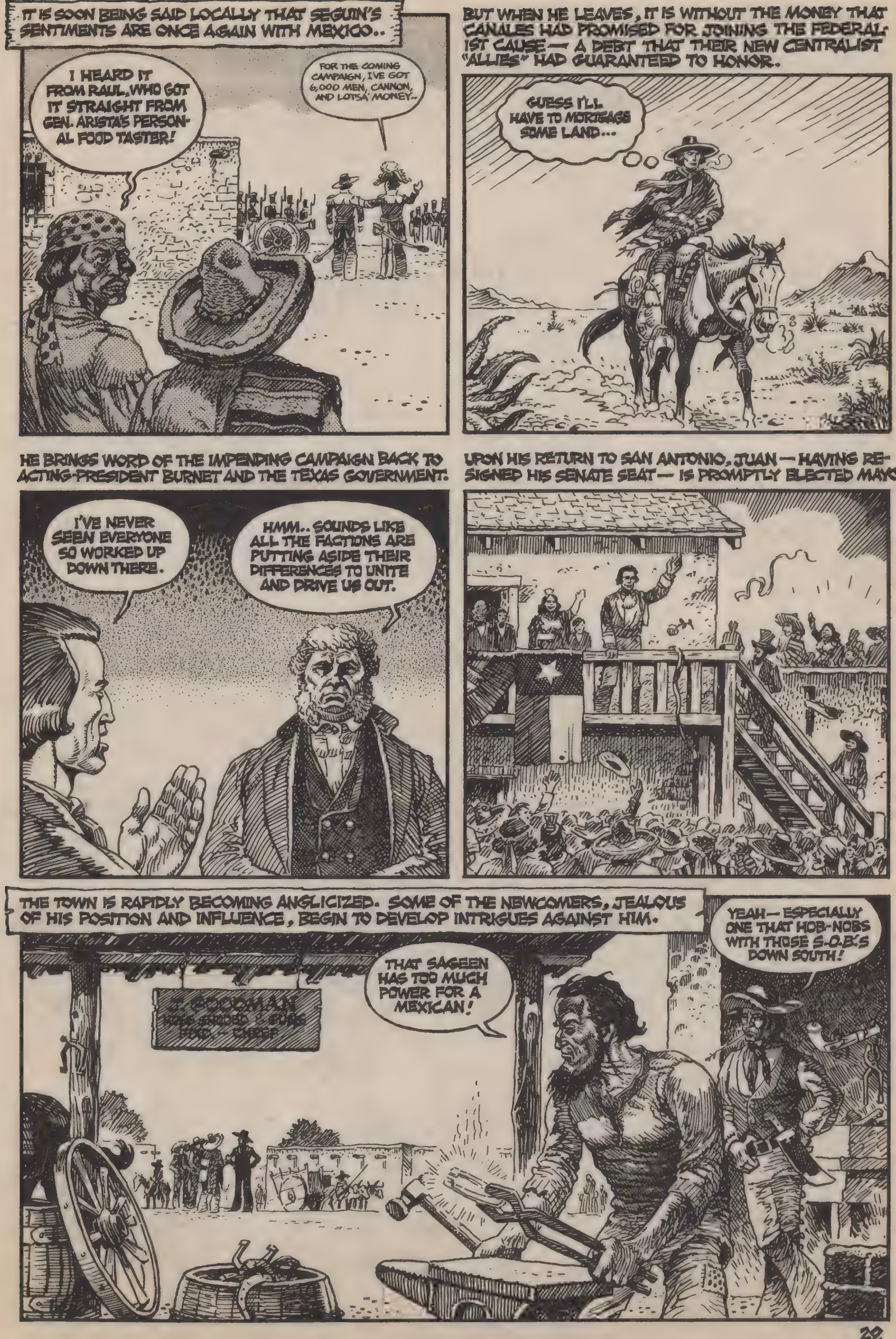


WHILE IN MIER, JUAN NOTICES THAT PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY FOR SOMETHING BIG...

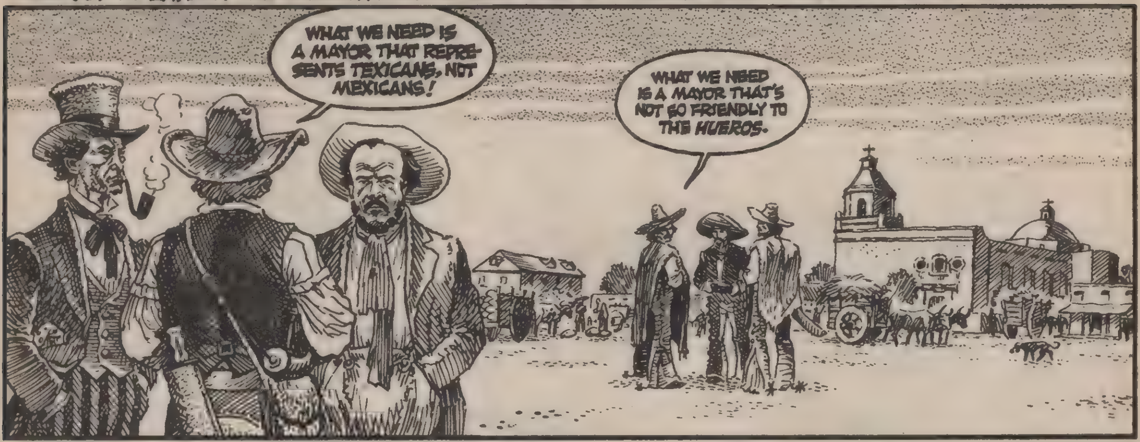
HE SOON HEARS FROM GEN. REYES AND GEN. VASQUEZ ABOUT THE FEDERALISTS' CHANGE OF PLANS.



HOPING TO LEARN SOMETHING DEFINITE ABOUT THEIR INVASION PLANS, HE PROCEEDS TO MONTERREY WHERE HE MEETS ARISTA. HE ENCOURAGES THE GENERALS TO TALK BY FEIGNING DISSATISFACTION WITH TEXAS.


IT IS SOON BEING SAID LOCALLY THAT SEGUIN'S SENTIMENTS ARE ONCE AGAIN WITH MEXICO..
I HEARD IT FROM RAUL, WHO GOT IT STRAIGHT FROM GEN. ARISTA'S PERSONAL FOOD TASTER!
FOR THE COMING CAMPAIGN, I'VE GOT 6,000 MEN, CANNON, AND LOTSA' MONEY..
BUT WHEN HE LEAVES, IT IS WITHOUT THE MONEY THAT CANALES HAD PROMISED FOR JOINING THE FEDERALIST CAUSE — A DEBT THAT THEIR NEW CENTRALIST "ALLIES" HAD GUARANTEED TO HONOR.
GUESS I'LL HAVE TO MORTGAGE SOME LAND...
HE BRINGS WORD OF THE IMPENDING CAMPAIGN BACK TO ACTING-PRESIDENT BURNET AND THE TEXAS GOVERNMENT.
I'VE NEVER SEEN EVERYONE SO WORKED UP DOWN THERE.
HMM.. SOUNDS LIKE ALL THE FACTIONS ARE PUTTING ASIDE THEIR DIFFERENCES TO UNITE AND DRIVE US OUT.
UPON HIS RETURN TO SAN ANTONIO, JUAN — HAVING RESIGNED HIS SENATE SEAT — IS PROMPTLY ELECTED MAYOR.
THE TOWN IS RAPIDLY BECOMING ANGLICIZED. SOME OF THE NEWCOMERS, JEALOUS OF HIS POSITION AND INFLUENCE, BEGIN TO DEVELOP INTRIGUES AGAINST HIM.
J. GOODMAN
THAT SAGEEN HAS TOO MUCH POWER FOR A MEXICAN!
YEAH — ESPECIALLY ONE THAT HOB-NOBS WITH THOSE S.O.B.'S DOWN SOUTH!

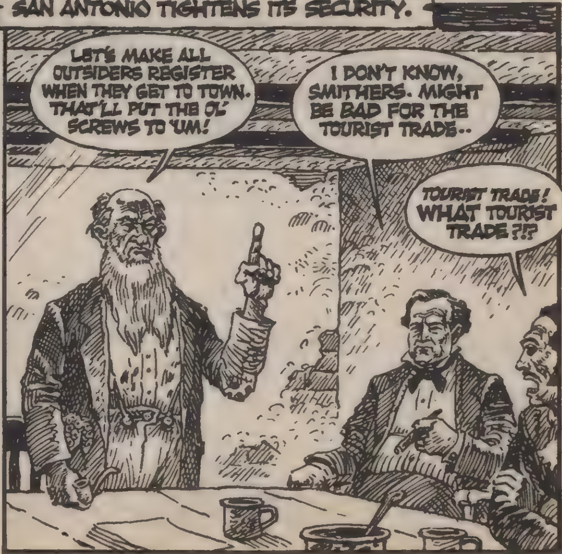
JUAN'S JOB BRINGS HIM INTO DAILY CONTACT WITH THE MORE UNDESIRABLE ELEMENTS OF BEXAR— MANY OF THEM OUT TO EXPLOIT THE COMMON PEOPLE. EACH TIME HE THWARTS THEIR PLANS, HIS ENEMIES INCREASE.



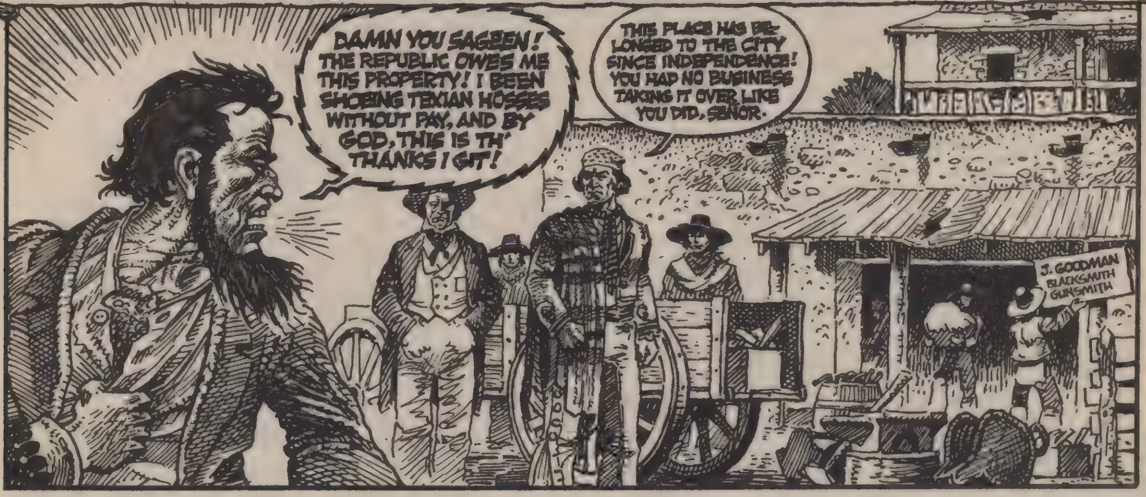
THE DEFENSE OF THE FRONTIER FALLS MOSTLY TO MEN LIKE CAPT. JACK HAYS AND HIS STALWART BAND OF RANGERS, OFTEN AIDED BY TEJANOS RIDING UNDER ANTONIO PEREZ.

CATTLE RAIDING AROUND THE AREA BECOMES WORSE. SOMEONE IS OBVIOUSLY TIPPING OFF THE MEXICAN RAIDERS AS TO RANGER MOVEMENTS, MAKING IT HARDER TO CATCH THE THIEVES.

SAN ANTONIO TIGHTENS ITS SECURITY.

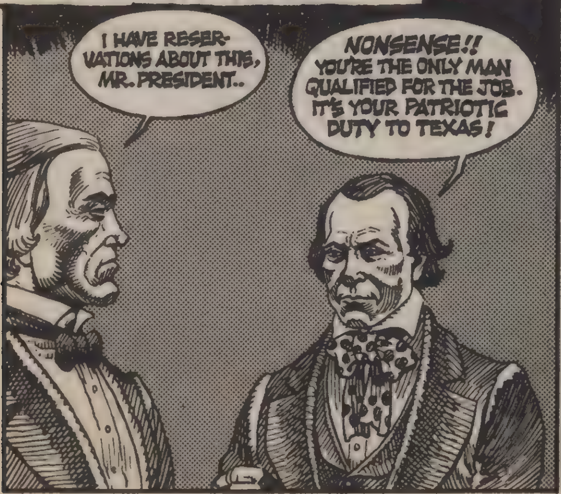


THE COUNCIL ALSO VOTES TO EXPELL JAMES GOODMAN, A NEWCOMER WHO HAS SQUATTED ON MILITARY PLAZA. JUAN, AS MAYOR, HAS TO EVICT GOODMAN, WHO IS SOMETHING OF A LEADER AMONG THE ROWDY CLASS.

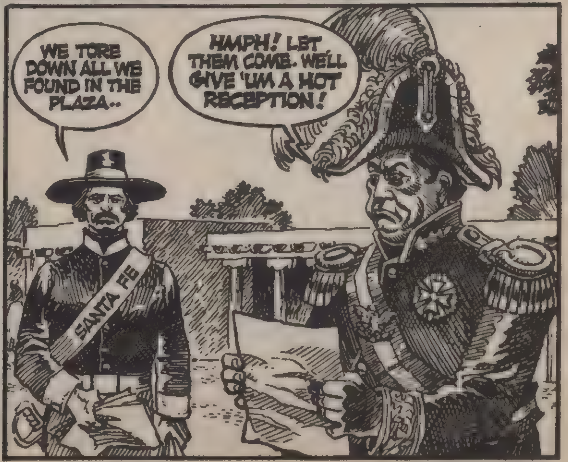


IN THE SUMMER OF 1841 PRESIDENT LAMAR COMES TO VISIT SAN ANTONIO AND IS LAVISHLY ENTERTAINED. BUT HIS *REAL PURPOSE* IS TO GATHER SUPPORT FOR AN EXPEDITION TO SANTA FE, AND THUS STRENGTHEN TEXAN CLAIMS TO PART OF NEW MEXICO.

HE PICKS NAVARRO AS ONE OF THE *MEN* TO HEAD HIS GRANDIOSE SCHEME.

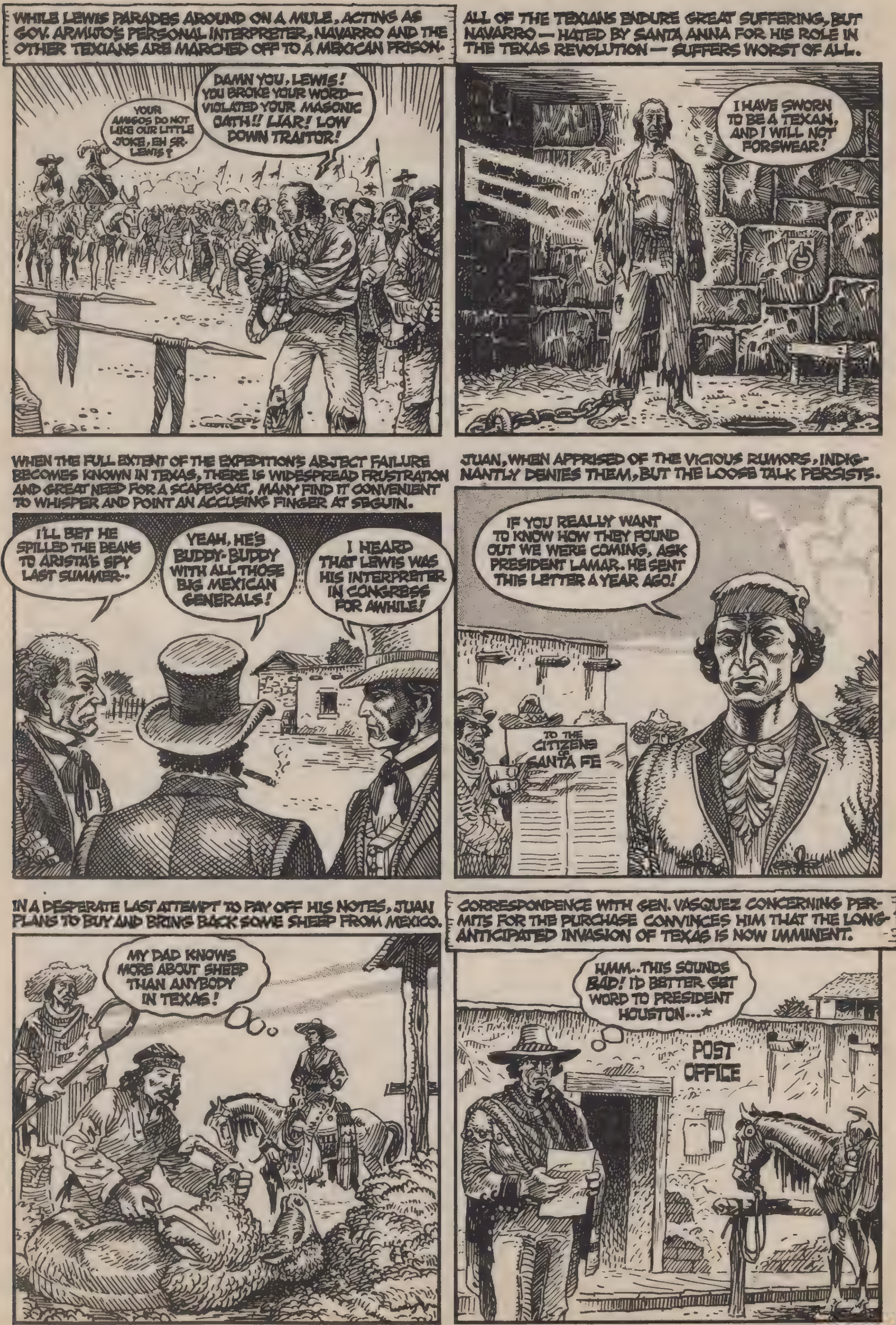


CONVINCED THAT THE PEOPLE OF NEW MEXICO WOULD WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY FOR INDEPENDENCE, *TEXAS-STYLE*, LAMAR MAKES NO SECRET OF HIS INTENTIONS — EVEN SENDING AHEAD AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF SANTA FE!

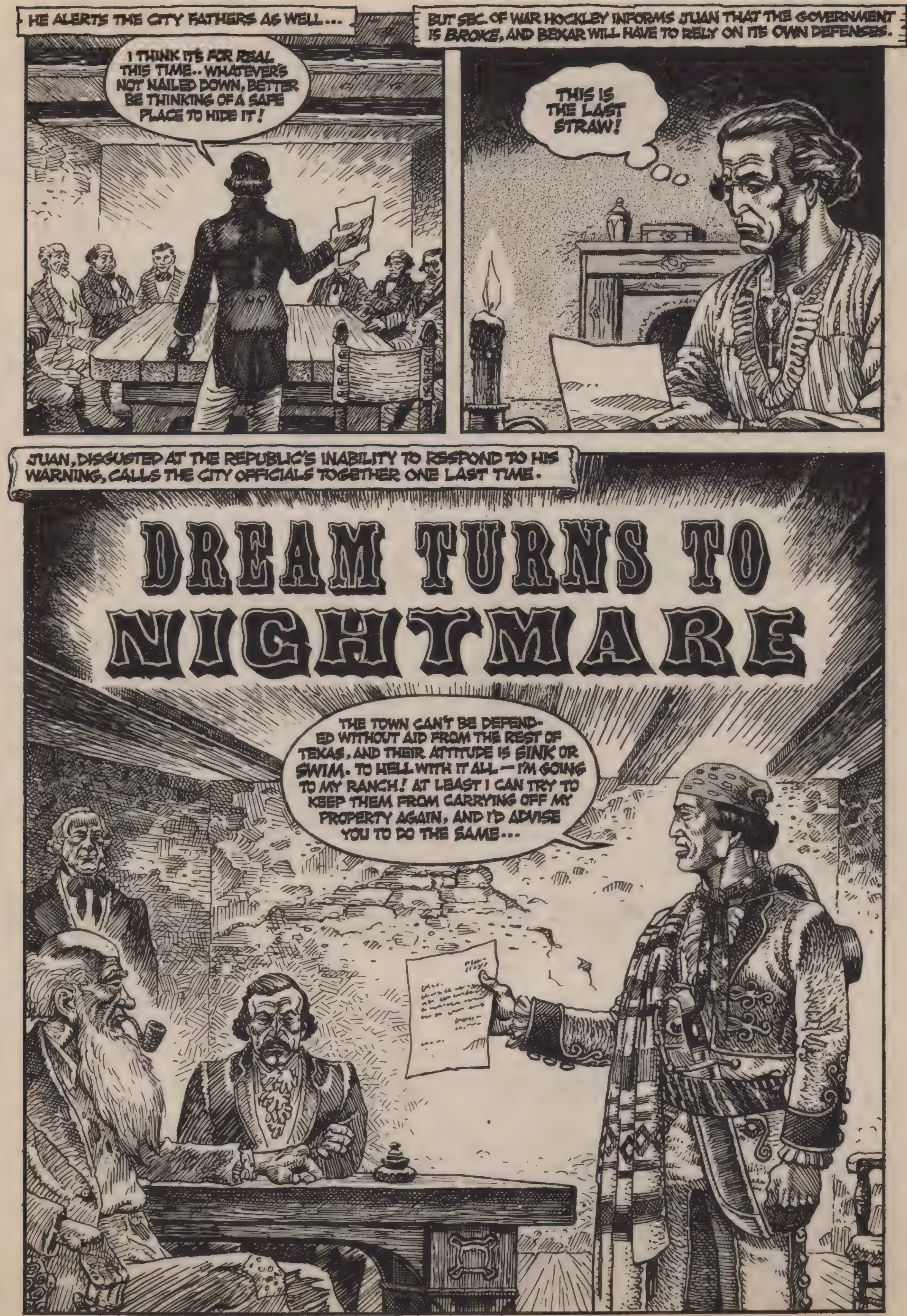


WHILE PREPARATIONS ARE BEING MADE FOR THE SANTA FE EXPEDITION, AN ENVOY SENT BY GEN. ARISTA PASSES THROUGH SAN ANTONIO, ON HIS WAY TO SEE LAMAR AND TALK ABOUT THE BORDER SITUATION.
HMM.. LOOKS LIKE THESE TEXIANS ARE PLANNING A LITTLE INVASION OF THEIR OWN.
BOWIE'S BAR
GIVE 'UM HELL IN SANTA FE!
JUAN IS THE ENVOY'S CONTACT AND TO RECOUP HIS EARLIER LOSSES WITH THE FEDERALISTS, HE AGREES TO DO A LITTLE SMUGGLING.
EVERYBODY DOES IT ANYWAY, BUT WITH MY HELP, IT'LL BE A CINCH!!
I'LL DRINK TO THAT!
BUT WHEN JUAN GETS TO THE BORDER, HE IS NOT ALLOWED TO CONTINUE WITH THE COMMISSIONERS AND HIS TRADE GOODS ARE CONFISCATED.
NO PROBLEM. WE'LL SELL EVERYTHING FOR YOU, AMIGO, AND SEND THE MONEY! TRUST US! HEH HEH
SO JUAN, HAVING BORROWED YET ANOTHER $3,000 FOR THIS VENTURE, IS PLUNGED DEEPER IN DEBT.
AT THIS RATE, MY FAMILY WILL END UP IN THE POORHOUSE.
EVEN MORE DAMNING TO HIS FORTUNES, HOWEVER, IS THE REPORT THAT THE ENVOY, URIBE, CARRIES BACK TO ARISTA — INFORMATION THAT JUAN, BY ASSOCIATION, WILL SOON BE ACCUSED OF GIVING TO THE ENEMY.
THEY'RE ON THEIR WAY TO SANTA FE WITH AN ARMY — TO TAKE NEW MEXICO LIKE THEY DID TEXAS!!

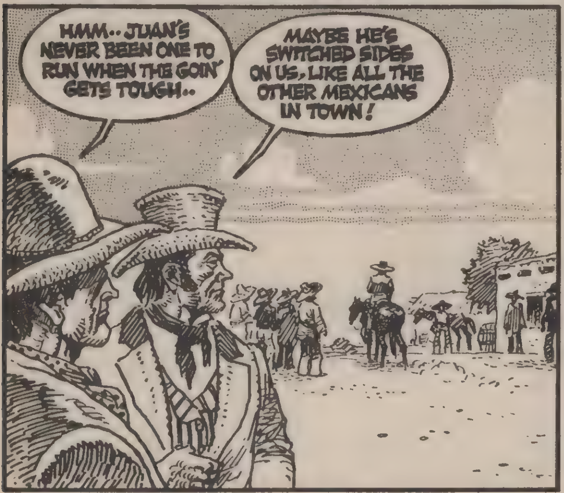
THE TYRANNICAL RULER IN SANTA FE, MANUEL ARMIJO, LAUNCHES AN ABUSIVE PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN TO AROUSE HIS SUBJECTS AGAINST THE TEXIANS.
CITIZENS, BE NOT DECEIVED BY THE SMOOTH WORDS OF THESE GODLESS FREEBOOTERS! THEY MEAN TO DESECRATE THE HOLY CHURCH, RAVISH OUR WOMEN, AND PILLAGE OUR FAIR PROVINCE!
RALLY AROUND YOUR ILLUSTRIOUS GOVERNOR, OR WE WILL ALL PERISH.
PERCEIVED BY THE MEXICANS AS A MILITARY INVASION RATHER THAN A COMMERCIAL VENTURE, THE TEXIAN "PIONEERS" MEET WITH DISASTER WHEN THEY STRAGGLE INTO NEW MEXICO.
TRADE COMMISSION, EH? SINCE WHEN DO TRADERS WEAR THE UNIFORM OF THE TEXAS ARMY?! DO NOT TAKE ME FOR A FOOL, SEÑORES!!
SANTA FE
THE REAL BETRAYER OF THE SANTA FE FIASCO TURNS OUT TO BE THE MAN WHO ORIGINALLY SOLD PRES. LAMAR ON THE IDEA AND GUIDED IT TO DESTRUCTION, CAPT. WILLIAM P. LEWIS.
BELIEVE ME BOYS, GIVING UP YOUR GUNS IS ONLY A FORMALITY.. CUSTOMARY PROCEDURE FOR THE SANTA FE TRADE!
?!



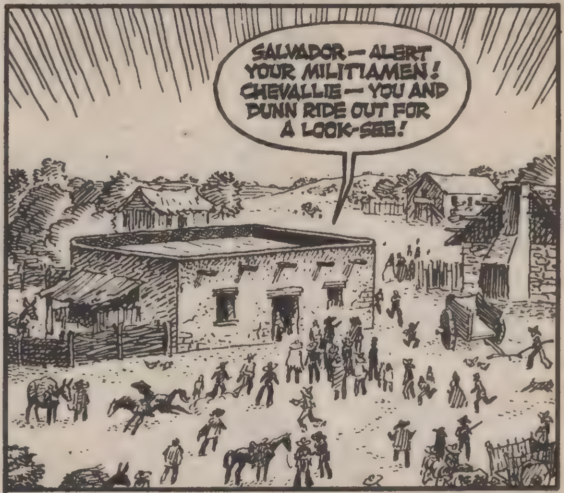
* SAM HOUSTON TOOK OFFICE FOR THE SECOND TIME IN DEC. 1841


HE ALERTS THE CITY FATHERS AS WELL...
I THINK IT'S FOR REAL THIS TIME.. WHATEVER'S NOT NAILED DOWN, BETTER BE THINKING OF A SAFE PLACE TO HIDE IT!
BUT SEC. OF WAR HOCKLEY INFORMS JUAN THAT THE GOVERNMENT IS BROKE, AND BEXAR WILL HAVE TO RELY ON ITS OWN DEFENSES.
THIS IS THE LAST STRAW!
JUAN, DISGUSTED AT THE REPUBLIC'S INABILITY TO RESPOND TO HIS WARNING, CALLS THE CITY OFFICIALS TOGETHER ONE LAST TIME.
DREAM TURNS TO NIGHTMARE
THE TOWN CAN'T BE DEFENDED WITHOUT AID FROM THE REST OF TEXAS, AND THEIR ATTITUDE IS SINK OR SWIM. TO HELL WITH IT ALL — I'M GOING TO MY RANCH! AT LEAST I CAN TRY TO KEEP THEM FROM CARRYING OFF MY PROPERTY AGAIN, AND I'D ADVISE YOU TO DO THE SAME...

HIS DECISION TO ABANDON THE DEFENSE OF BEXAR MAKES PEOPLE MORE SUSPICIOUS. MALICIOUS GOSSIP HAS ALREADY LAID THE "BETRAYAL" OF THE SANTA FE AFFAIR AT HIS DOOR.

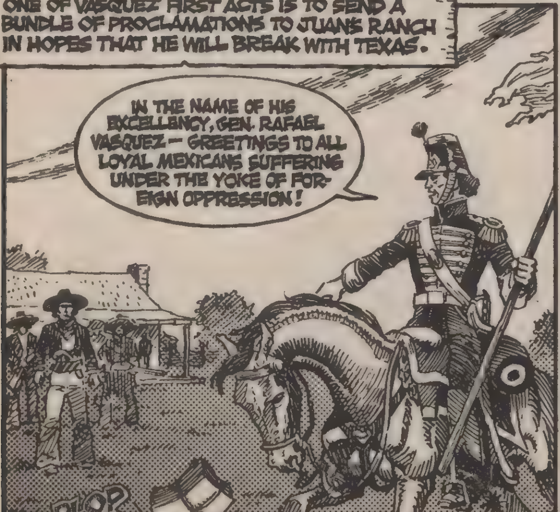


JACK HAYS IS CHOSEN BY THE ANGLOS TO ORGANIZE A DEFENSE GROUP UNDER MARTIAL LAW — INCLUDING A CONTINGENT OF LOCAL TEJANOS UNDER SALVADOR FLORES.

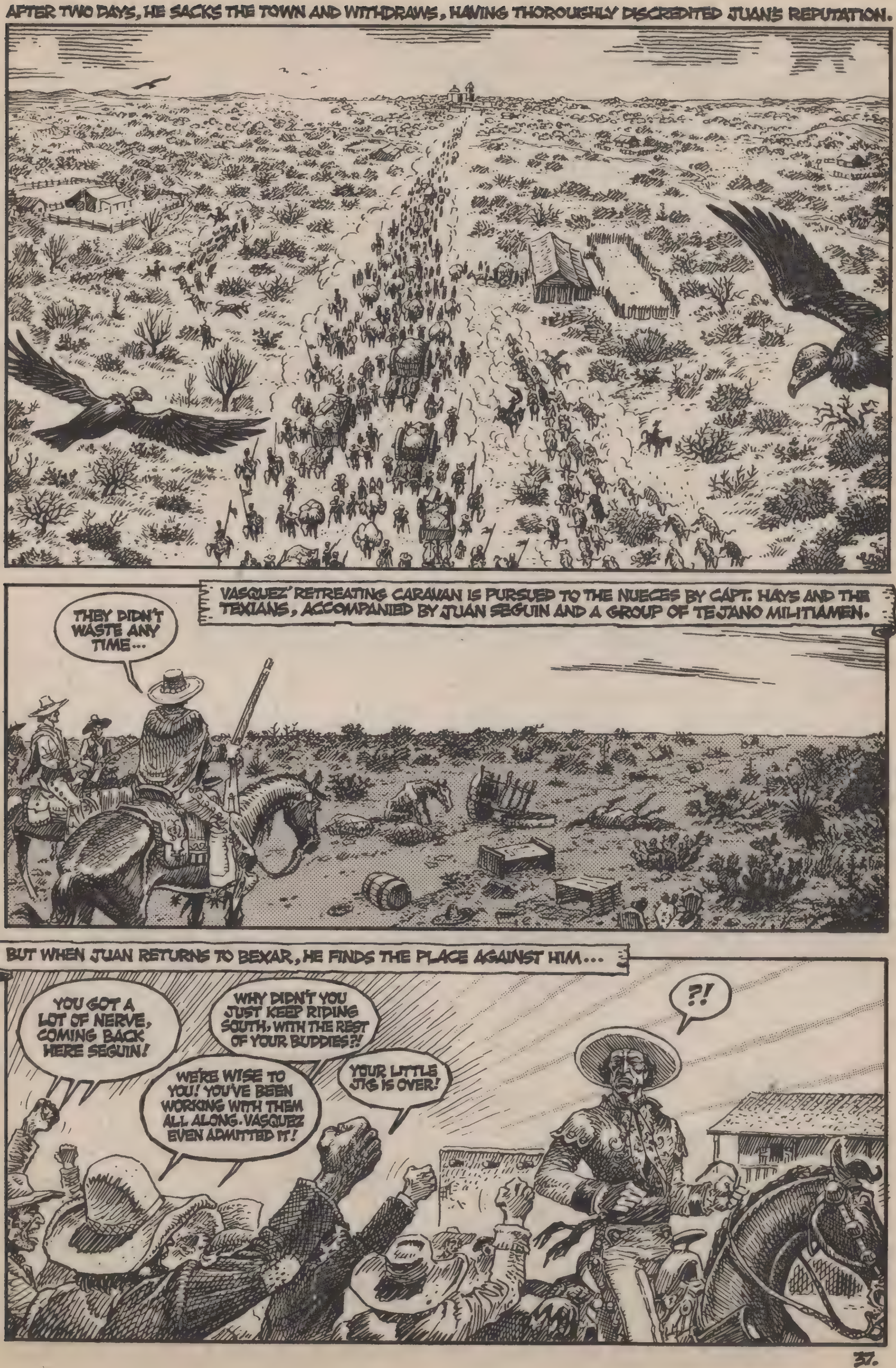


BUT WHEN VASQUEZ AND HIS ARMY SUDDENLY APPEAR ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF TOWN, THE SURPRISED TEXIANS HASTILY FALL BACK AND BEAT THE DUST TOWARD THE LITTLE SETTLEMENT RENAMED IN HONOR OF JUAN SEGUIN.

ONE OF VASQUEZ' FIRST ACTS IS TO SEND A BUNDLE OF PROCLAMATIONS TO JUAN'S RANCH IN HOPES THAT HE WILL BREAK WITH TEXAS.

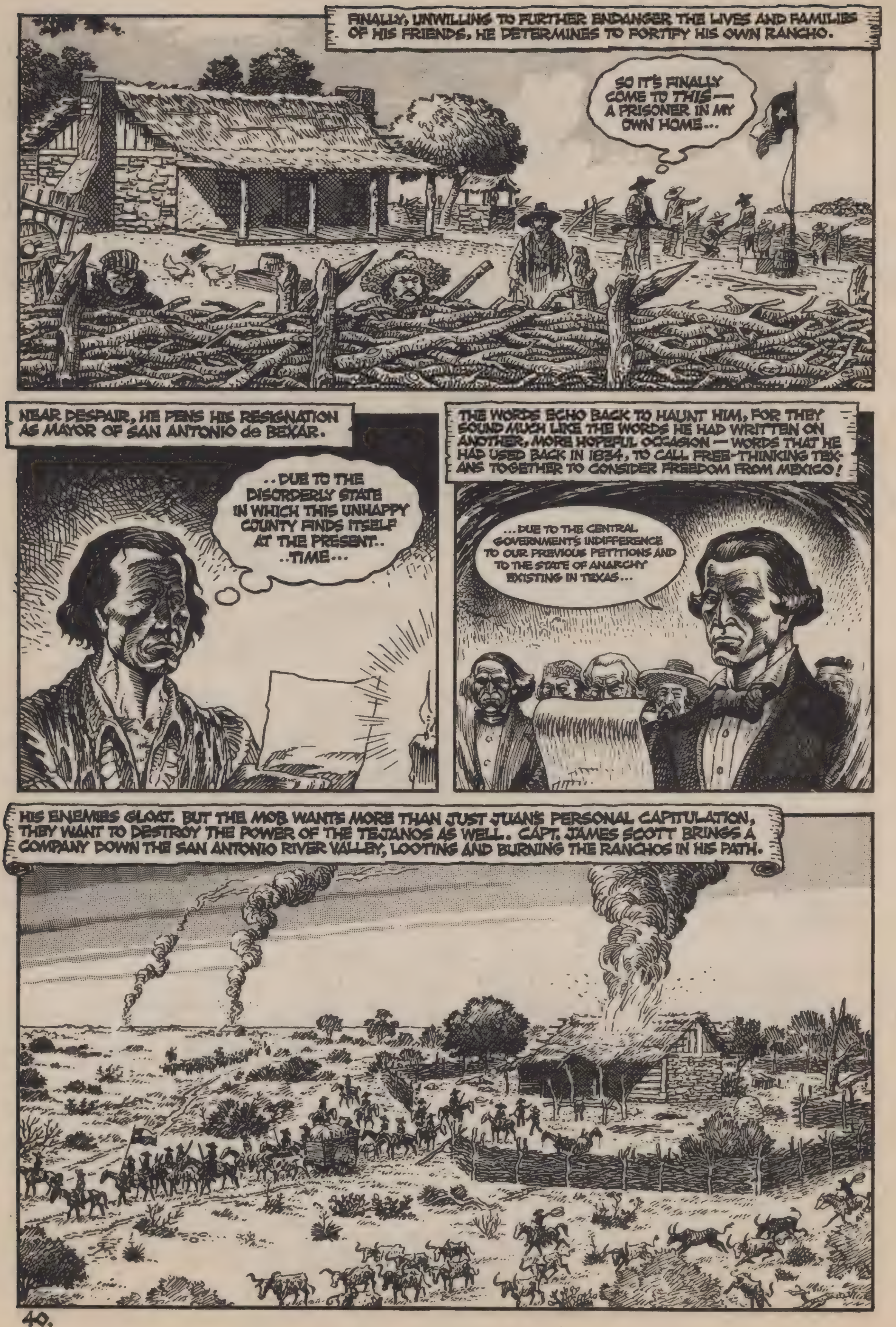


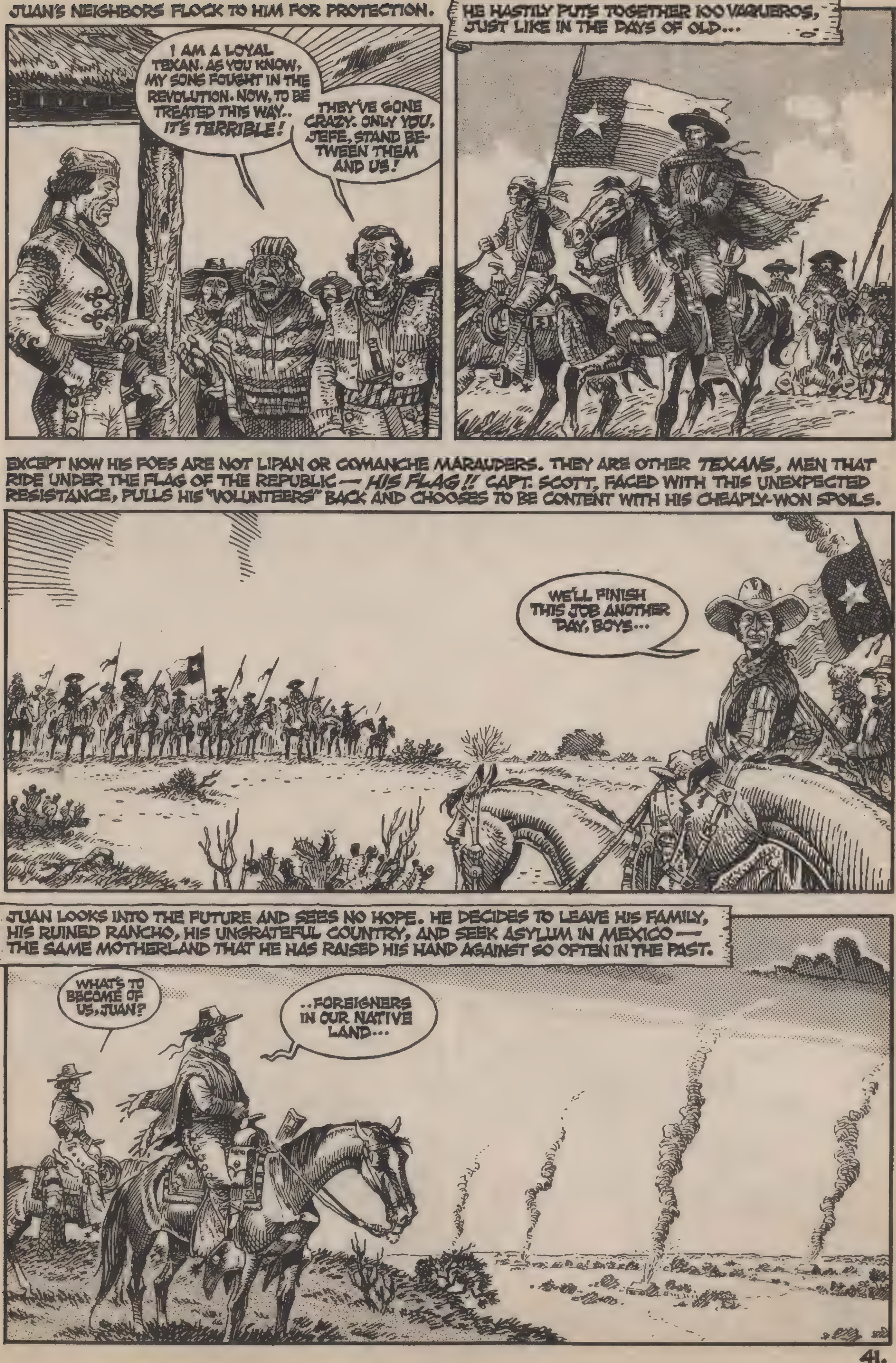
VASQUEZ TELLS THE CITIZENS OF BEXAR THAT SEGUIN BACKS HIM AND HIS "RECONQUEST" OF TEXAS...

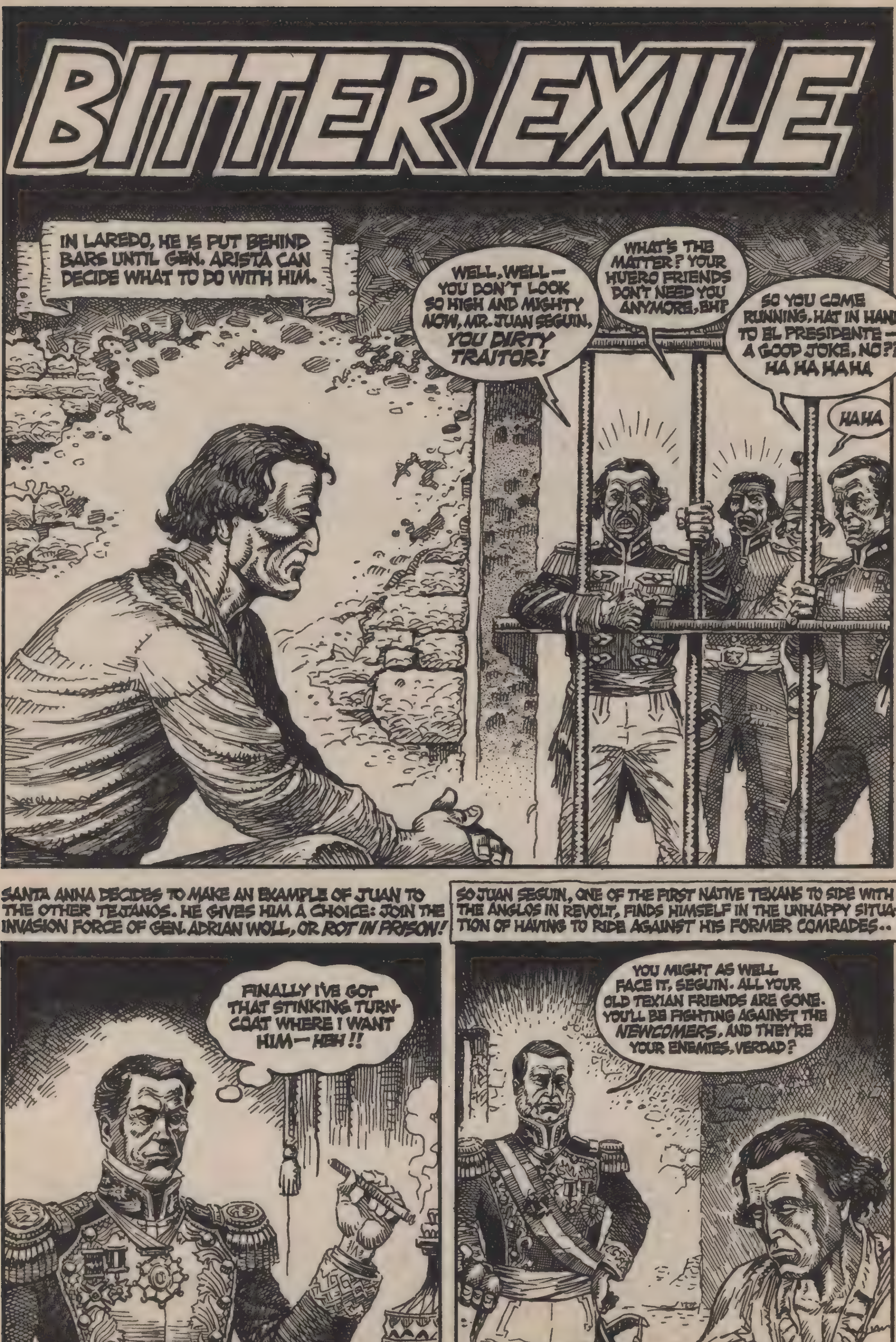

AFTER TWO DAYS, HE SACKS THE TOWN AND WITHDRAWS, HAVING THOROUGHLY DISCREDITED JUAN'S REPUTATION.
VASQUEZ' RETREATING CARAVAN IS PURSUED TO THE NUECES BY CAPT. HAYS AND THE TEXIANS, ACCOMPANIED BY JUAN SEGUIN AND A GROUP OF TEJANO MILITIAMEN.
THEY DIDN'T WASTE ANY TIME...
BUT WHEN JUAN RETURNS TO BEXAR, HE FINDS THE PLACE AGAINST HIM...
YOU GOT A LOT OF NERVE, COMING BACK HERE SEGUIN!
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST KEEP RIDING SOUTH, WITH THE REST OF YOUR BUDDIES?!
WE'RE WISE TO YOU! YOU'VE BEEN WORKING WITH THEM ALL ALONG. VASQUEZ EVEN ADMITTED IT!
YOUR LITTLE JIG IS OVER!
?!

ONE OF HIS FRIENDS, AND A SAN JACINTO VETERAN, MATIAS COURSIER, IS BEATEN SENSELESS BY GOODMAN AND SOME OF HIS BULLIES.
THAT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO WHAT WE GOT PLANNED FOR YOUR COMPADRE SAGEEN!
JUAN, HIS LIFE NOW IN DANGER, MOVES ABOUT THE STREETS IN DISGUISE.
JUAN, YOU KNOW I'M YOUR FRIEND. TAKE MY ADVICE AND OPEN YOUR EYES BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE...
MORE VIOLENCE IS AVERTED BY THE TIMELY ARRIVAL OF GEN. ED BURLESON AND A COMPANY OF ARMY REGULARS.
WHAT'S GOIN' ON HERE !?
SEGUIN'S GONE OVER TO THE ENEMY !!
HE'S A TRAITOR!
JUAN DEMANDS A PUBLIC HEARING TO CLEAR HIMSELF OF MISDOING, BUT BURLESON REFUSES TO CALL A COURT OF INQUIRY.
THESE CHARGES ARE *RIDICULOUS*! I WON'T DIGNIFY SUCH SLANDER BY GIVING IT FORMAL TRAPPINGS. SEGUIN HAS SUPPORTED US SINCE DAY ONE!
BUT JUAN'S ENEMIES, SOME WHO HAVE NURSED PETTY GRIEVANCES AGAINST HIM FOR YEARS, CONTINUE TO AGITATE THE MOB.
IF HE'S SUCH A *NOBLE PATRIOT*, THEN WHY DIDN'T HE HAVE ALL THOSE PEOPLE, WHO OPENLY CONSORTED WITH OL' VASQUEZ, ARRESTED?
I'LL TELL YOU WHY— CAUSE HE'S ONE OF 'UM HISSELF !!

ONE OF THE MAIN RABBLE-ROUSERS IS JAMES GOODMAN, THE RECENTLY EVICTED GUNSMITH, AND HE RELISHES THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE VENGEANCE AGAINST JUAN.
BOYS, THIS IS OUR CHANCE TO MAKE THINGS RIGHT AROUND HERE! EITHER THIS PLACE IS TEXAS, OR IT'S MEXICO — WHICH IS IT GONNA BE?!!
GET SEGUIN!
THROW TH' MESKINS OUT!!
BURLESON, REALIZING THE PUBLIC MOOD IS TURNING UGLY, COMMISSIONS JUAN TO "FORAGE FOR PROVISIONS IN THE LOWER RANCHOS"— REALLY AN EXCUSE TO GET HIM BEYOND THE GRASP OF HIS TORMENTERS.
PEOPLE ARE PRETTY HOT RIGHT NOW, BUT THEY'LL SIMMER DOWN AND COME TO THEIR SENSES. JUST LAY LOW FOR AWHILE...
BESIDES, YOU WON'T GET A FAIR TRIAL HERE ANYWAY OLD FRIEND..
BUT A VOLUNTEER LYNCHING MOB LEARNS OF HIS "ESCAPE" AND GOES AFTER HIM. THEY STRING UP SENOR CALAVERAS, ONE OF JUAN'S NEIGHBORS.
WHERE'S HE HIDING AT, YOU OLD BUZZARD?
TALK, OR WE'LL MAKE IT ROUGH ON YOU!
SENOR CALAVERAS DOES NOT TALK, AND JUAN MAKES HIS GETAWAY. HE GOES INTO HIDING FOR SEVERAL WEEKS, RUNNING FROM RANCHO TO RANCHO.

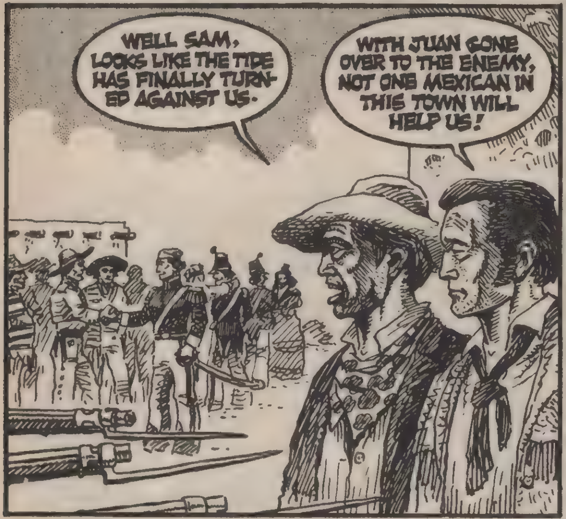

FINALLY, UNWILLING TO FURTHER ENDANGER THE LIVES AND FAMILIES OF HIS FRIENDS, HE DETERMINES TO FORTIFY HIS OWN RANCHO.
SO IT'S FINALLY COME TO THIS— A PRISONER IN MY OWN HOME...
NEAR DESPAIR, HE PENS HIS RESIGNATION AS MAYOR OF SAN ANTONIO de BEXAR.
..DUE TO THE DISORDERLY STATE IN WHICH THIS UNHAPPY COUNTY FINDS ITSELF AT THE PRESENT.. ..TIME...
THE WORDS ECHO BACK TO HAUNT HIM, FOR THEY SOUND MUCH LIKE THE WORDS HE HAD WRITTEN ON ANOTHER, MORE HOPEFUL OCCASION — WORDS THAT HE HAD USED BACK IN 1834, TO CALL FREE-THINKING TEXANS TOGETHER TO CONSIDER FREEDOM FROM MEXICO!
...DUE TO THE CENTRAL GOVERNMENT'S INDIFFERENCE TO OUR PREVIOUS PETITIONS AND TO THE STATE OF ANARCHY EXISTING IN TEXAS...
HIS ENEMIES GLOAT. BUT THE MOB WANTS MORE THAN JUST JUAN'S PERSONAL CAPITULATION, THEY WANT TO DESTROY THE POWER OF THE TEJANOS AS WELL. CAPT. JAMES SCOTT BRINGS A COMPANY DOWN THE SAN ANTONIO RIVER VALLEY, LOOTING AND BURNING THE RANCHOS IN HIS PATH.


JUAN'S NEIGHBORS FLOCK TO HIM FOR PROTECTION.
I AM A LOYAL TEXAN. AS YOU KNOW, MY SONS FOUGHT IN THE REVOLUTION. NOW, TO BE TREATED THIS WAY.. IT'S TERRIBLE!
THEY'VE GONE CRAZY. ONLY YOU, JEFE, STAND BETWEEN THEM AND US!
HE HASTILY PUTS TOGETHER 100 VAQUEROS, JUST LIKE IN THE DAYS OF OLD...
EXCEPT NOW HIS FOES ARE NOT LIPAN OR COMANCHE MARAUDERS. THEY ARE OTHER TEXANS, MEN THAT RIDE UNDER THE FLAG OF THE REPUBLIC— HIS FLAG!! CAPT. SCOTT, FACED WITH THIS UNEXPECTED RESISTANCE, PULLS HIS "VOLUNTEERS" BACK AND CHOOSES TO BE CONTENT WITH HIS CHEAPLY-WON SPOILS.
WE'LL FINISH THIS JOB ANOTHER DAY, BOYS...
JUAN LOOKS INTO THE FUTURE AND SEES NO HOPE. HE DECIDES TO LEAVE HIS FAMILY, HIS RUINED RANCHO, HIS UNGRATEFUL COUNTRY, AND SEEK ASYLUM IN MEXICO— THE SAME MOTHERLAND THAT HE HAS RAISED HIS HAND AGAINST SO OFTEN IN THE PAST.
WHAT'S TO BECOME OF US, JUAN?
..FOREIGNERS IN OUR NATIVE LAND...

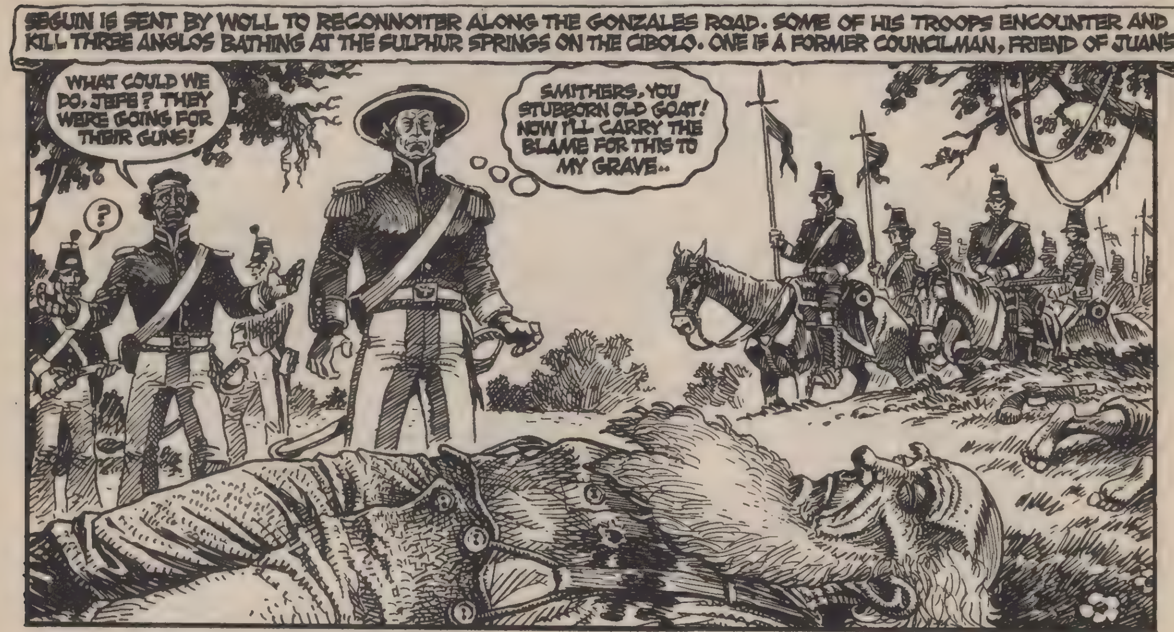

BITTER EXILE
IN LAREDO, HE IS PUT BEHIND BARS UNTIL GEN. ARISTA CAN DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH HIM.
WELL, WELL — YOU DON'T LOOK SO HIGH AND MIGHTY NOW, MR. JUAN SEGUIN, YOU DIRTY TRAITOR!
WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOUR HUERO FRIENDS DON'T NEED YOU ANYMORE, EH?
SO YOU COME RUNNING, HAT IN HAND TO EL PRESIDENTE — A GOOD JOKE, NO?? HA HA HA HA
HAHA
SANTA ANNA DECIDES TO MAKE AN EXAMPLE OF JUAN TO THE OTHER TEJANOS. HE GIVES HIM A CHOICE: JOIN THE INVASION FORCE OF GEN. ADRIAN WOLL, OR ROT IN PRISON!
SO JUAN SEGUIN, ONE OF THE FIRST NATIVE TEXANS TO SIDE WITH THE ANGLOS IN REVOLT, FINDS HIMSELF IN THE UNHAPPY SITUATION OF HAVING TO RIDE AGAINST HIS FORMER COMRADES..
FINALLY I'VE GOT THAT STINKING TURN-COAT WHERE I WANT HIM — HEH!!
YOU MIGHT AS WELL FACE IT, SEGUIN. ALL YOUR OLD TEXIAN FRIENDS ARE GONE. YOU'LL BE FIGHTING AGAINST THE NEWCOMERS, AND THEY'RE YOUR ENEMIES, VERDAD?

JUAN COMMANDS A SMALL FORCE OF 62 "DEFENDERS OF BEXAR"— OTHER YOUNG SONS OF TEXAS DRIVEN TO EXILE. THEY INCLUDE PAST COMPATRIOTS OF HIS LIKE ANTONIO PEREZ, MANUEL LEAL, LEANDRO ARREOLA, MANUEL FLORES, AND MANUEL CARVAJAL.
WE'RE CAUGHT BETWEEN A ROCK AND A HARD PLACE!!
THEY ARE BRIEFLY RESISTED BY SOME CITIZENS OF BEXAR, WHO THINK THEY ARE JUST ANOTHER BANDIT GANG, COME TO PLUNDER THE TOWN. ANTONIO MENCHACA, WOUNDED IN THE FIGHTING, IS AGHAST WHEN HE FINDS WHO THE ENEMY REALLY IS.
JUAN..??? WHAT'S— WHAT ARE YOU DOING IN A MEXICAN UNIFORM?!
THE APPEARANCE OF JUAN SEGUIN IN THE RANKS OF THE INVASION FORCE SPREADS CONSTERNATION AMONG THE TEJANOS THAT HAD PLANNED TO HELP DEFEND THEIR TOWN. NOW, THEY DO NOT KNOW WHICH SIDE TO JOIN..
I'LL STILL FIGHT MEXICO, BUT NOT JUAN SEGUIN! HE'S LIKE A BROTHER TO ME!
LOOK! THERE'S ANTONIO AND MANUEL WITH HIM.

OTHERS, NOW FED-UP WITH ANGLO RULE AND THE ABUSES OF THE ROWDY ELEMENT, SOON SWELL THE RANKS OF GEN. WOLL'S ARMY.



WHEN WOLL'S OCCUPATION OF BEXAR IS COMPLETE, MANY OF JUAN'S FORMER ENEMIES ANXIOUSLY COURT HIS FAVOR.

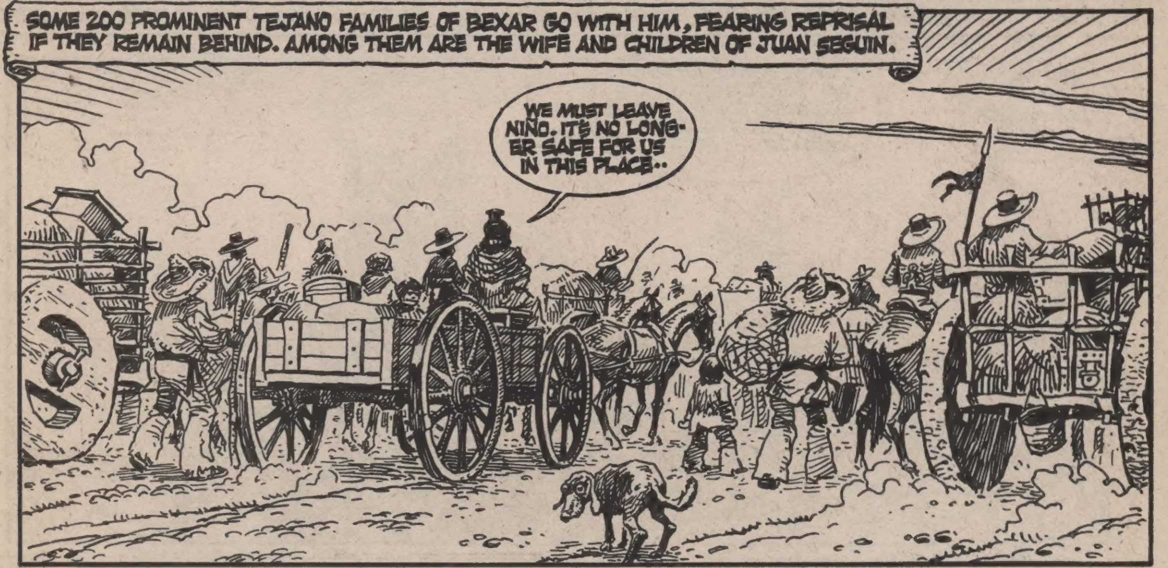


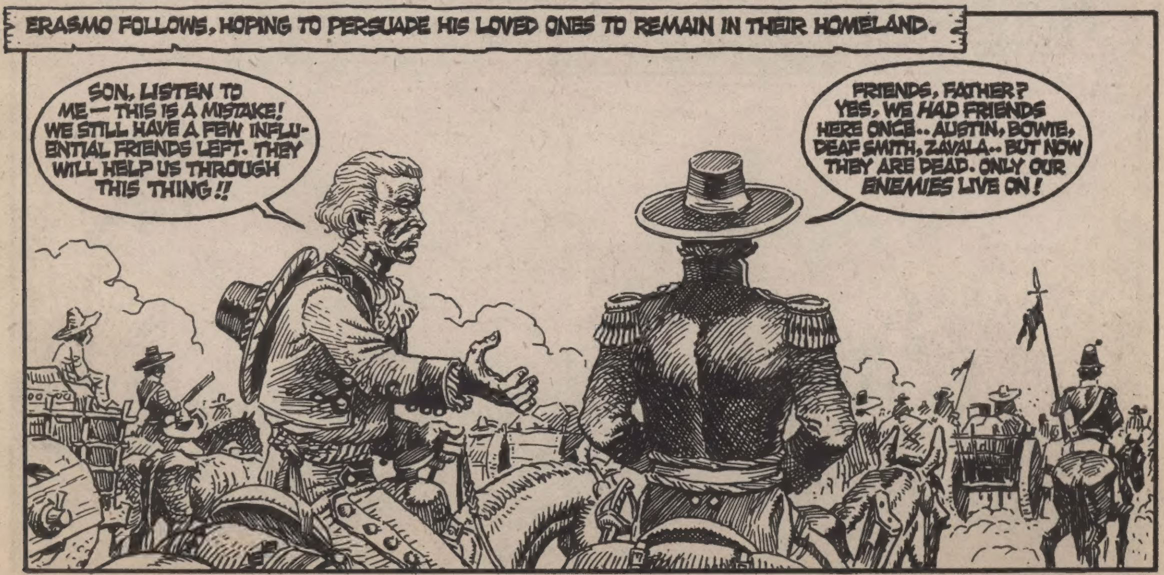
WHEN A FORCE OF TEXIANS APPEARS ON THE SALADO CREEK, WOLL ORDERS JUAN TO ATTACK "AT ALL HAZARD".

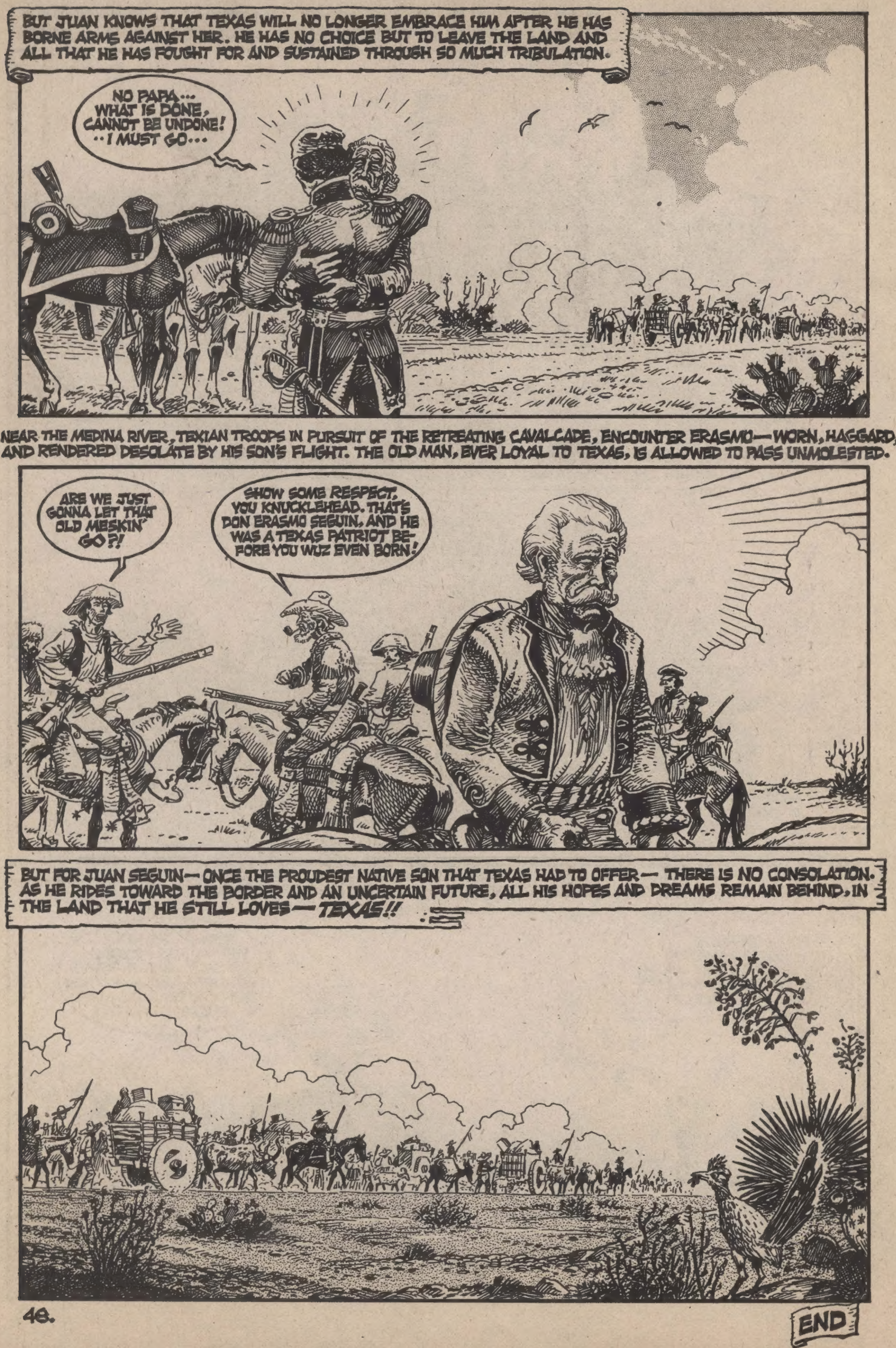
HE AND THE BEXAR DEFENDERS ARE PLACED IN THE FOREFRONT OF BATTLE SO THAT JUAN, BY SHEDDING HIS BLOOD, MIGHT VINDICATE HIMSELF FOR PAST OFFENSES AGAINST MEXICO.
ADELANTE, MUCHACHOS!!
JUAN'S COMPANY ATTACKS TWICE AND IS HURLED BACK IN GREAT CONFUSION BY THE TEXIANS' DEADLY FIRE — JUST AS HE KNEW THEY WOULD BE.
TEXIANS THAT HAD ONCE FOUGHT BESIDE JUAN — LIKE JACK HAYS, HENRY McCULLOCH, CREED TAYLOR, "BIGFOOT" WALLACE AND OTHERS — ARE NOW ASTOUNDED TO SEE HIM LEADING THE ENEMY!!
WHY, THAT'S JUAN SEGUIN!! GOD, I NEVER THOUGHT I'D LIVE TO SEE HIM RAISE A HAND AGAINST TEXAS!
LOOKS LIKE THOSE PEOPLE THAT CLAIMED HE WAS A TRAITOR WERE RIGHT ALL ALONG.

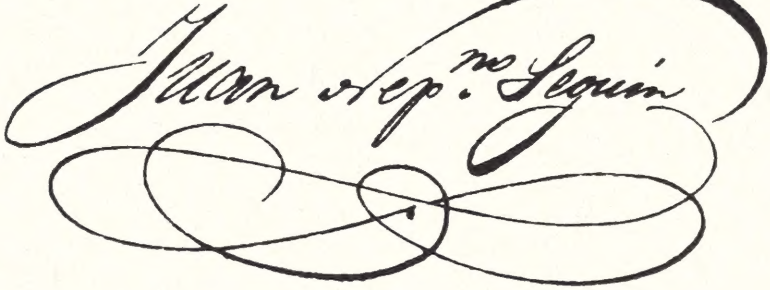
GEN. WOLL, SATISFIED THAT JUAN IS NOW LOYAL TO MEXICO, RELIEVES HIM AS A THIRD CHARGE IS READIED.
MAYBE HE HAS HAD A CHANGE OF HEART— AT LEAST NOW EVERYBODY WILL THINK SO. THAT'S FOR SURE!!
IN THE LULL, MATHEW "OLD PAINT" CALDWELL — ONE OF MANY IN THE TEXIAN RANKS THAT HAD SPENT TIME IN A MEXICAN PRISON— ADDRESSES HIS SMALL ARMY.
NOW MY BOYS, YOU KNOW WHAT'S IN STORE FOR US GRINGOS IF EVEN MEN LIKE JUAN SEGUIN TURN THEIR BACKS ON TEXAS! KEEP COOL AND REMEMBER— WE FIGHT FOR LIBERTY AND OUR INSULTED COUNTRY!
BUT IN THIS TEXIAN ARMY, THERE ARE PITIFULLY FEW TEJANOS: THE ANGLO-SAXON SONS OF KENTUCKY AND TENNESSEE STAND FACING THE HISPANO SONS OF CASTILE AND MEXICO.... AT LAST THE UGLY LINE HAS BEEN DRAWN FOR TEXAS.
AT SUNSET, AFTER A DAY OF BITTER FIGHTING AND HEAVY LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES, WOLL WITHDRAWS FROM THE FIELD TO LICK HIS WOUNDS.
HAVING OCCUPIED BEXAR FOR A BRIEF TEN DAYS, WOLL — CONCLUDING THAT HIS MISSION IS COMPLETE— HEADS BACK TOWARD MEXICO.

UNLIKE VASQUEZ, HE DOES NOT ALLOW HIS TROOPS TO PILLAGE THE CITY, BUT HE SENDS AHEAD 58 "PRISONERS OF WAR"— INCLUDING SAM MAVERICK AND ALL OF SAN ANTONIO'S CIVIL OFFICIALS AND IMPORTANT ANGLO CITIZENS.






BUT JUAN KNOWS THAT TEXAS WILL NO LONGER EMBRACE HIM AFTER HE HAS BORNE ARMS AGAINST HER. HE HAS NO CHOICE BUT TO LEAVE THE LAND AND ALL THAT HE HAS FOUGHT FOR AND SUSTAINED THROUGH SO MUCH TRIBULATION.
NO PAPA... WHAT IS DONE, CANNOT BE UNDONE! ..I MUST GO...
NEAR THE MEDINA RIVER, TEXIAN TROOPS IN PURSUIT OF THE RETREATING CAVALCADE, ENCOUNTER ERASMO—WORN, HAGGARD, AND RENDERED DESOLATE BY HIS SON'S FLIGHT. THE OLD MAN, EVER LOYAL TO TEXAS, IS ALLOWED TO PASS UNMOLESTED.
ARE WE JUST GONNA LET THAT OLD MESKIN' GO?!
SHOW SOME RESPECT, YOU KNUCKLEHEAD. THAT'S DON ERASMO SEGUIN, AND HE WAS A TEXAS PATRIOT BEFORE YOU WUZ EVEN BORN!
BUT FOR JUAN SEGUIN— ONCE THE PROUDEST NATIVE SON THAT TEXAS HAD TO OFFER— THERE IS NO CONSOLATION. AS HE RIDES TOWARD THE BORDER AND AN UNCERTAIN FUTURE, ALL HIS HOPES AND DREAMS REMAIN BEHIND, IN THE LAND THAT HE STILL LOVES— TEXAS!!
END



AFTER JUAN SEGUIN LEFT TEXAS HE CONTINUED THE LIFE OF A SOLDIER. DURING THE MEXICAN WAR HE AND MEMBERS OF HIS OLD TEJANO COMPANY SERVED AS SCOUTS, SPIES, AND GUERRILLA FIGHTERS FOR MEXICO — MUCH LIKE THE TEXAS RANGERS DID FOR THE UNITED STATES. AFTER THE TREATY OF GUADALUPE HIDALGO, HE DECIDED TO RETIRE FROM MILITARY LIFE AND RETURN TO HIS FORMER HOMELAND. THE AMERICAN COMMANDER AT PRESIDIO DEL RIO GRANDE DESCRIBED HIM AS "CARE WORN AND THREAD-BARE" BUT READY TO "RISK THE CONSEQUENCES" OF HIS RETURN.

DESPITE HIS "TREASON" JUAN STILL HAD FRIENDS LEFT IN TEXAS, SOME OF THEM — LIKE SAM HOUSTON — POWERFUL MEN OF INFLUENCE WHO HAD NOT FORGOTTEN HIS EARLY RECORD OF DEDICATION TO TEXAS. HIS POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS WERE BROKEN, HOWEVER, BY HIS FLIGHT TO MEXICO AND THE WOLL EPISODE. IT WAS FOR THIS REASON — BECAUSE HIS ENEMIES HAD ALREADY DESTROYED HIM POLITICALLY — THAT JUAN BELIEVED HE WAS LEFT ALONE UPON HIS RETURN.

CONSIDERED AT ONE TIME A TRAITOR BY BOTH TEXAS AND MEXICO, JUAN NEPOMUCENO SEGUIN DIED AND WAS BURIED AT NUEVO LAREDO IN 1890, AT THE AGE OF 84. TIME HAS MELLOWED THE PASSIONS OF THE PAST, AND HISTORY HAS BEEN KINDER TO HIS MEMORY THAN HIS CONTEMPORARIES WERE TO HIM IN LIFE. IN BELATED RECOGNITION OF HIS SERVICES TO THE REPUBLIC, THE CITIZENS OF HIS NAMESAKE, THE TOWN OF SEGUIN, TEXAS, PLACED A MONUMENT AND MOVED HIS REMAINS THERE IN 1974. THIS ACTION, NO DOUBT WELL-INTENTIONED, WAS CONTESTED BY SOME OF HIS DESCENDANTS WHO REJECTED IT AS A HOLLOW GESTURE, AN EMPTY TRIBUTE TO A MAN WHO HAD SUFFERED SO MUCH BY ESPOUSING THE CAUSE OF TEXAS.

VIVA SEGUIN — MAY HIS IDEALS OF FREEDOM, JUSTICE, AND EQUALITY SHINE BRIGHTLY, LIKE A LONE STAR, AND MAY HIS MEMORY LIVE IN THE HEARTS OF ALL TEXANS — *FOREVER!*

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